North Carolina
State Parks System
Land Acquisition Program

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February 1991

Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources
Division of Parks & Recreation

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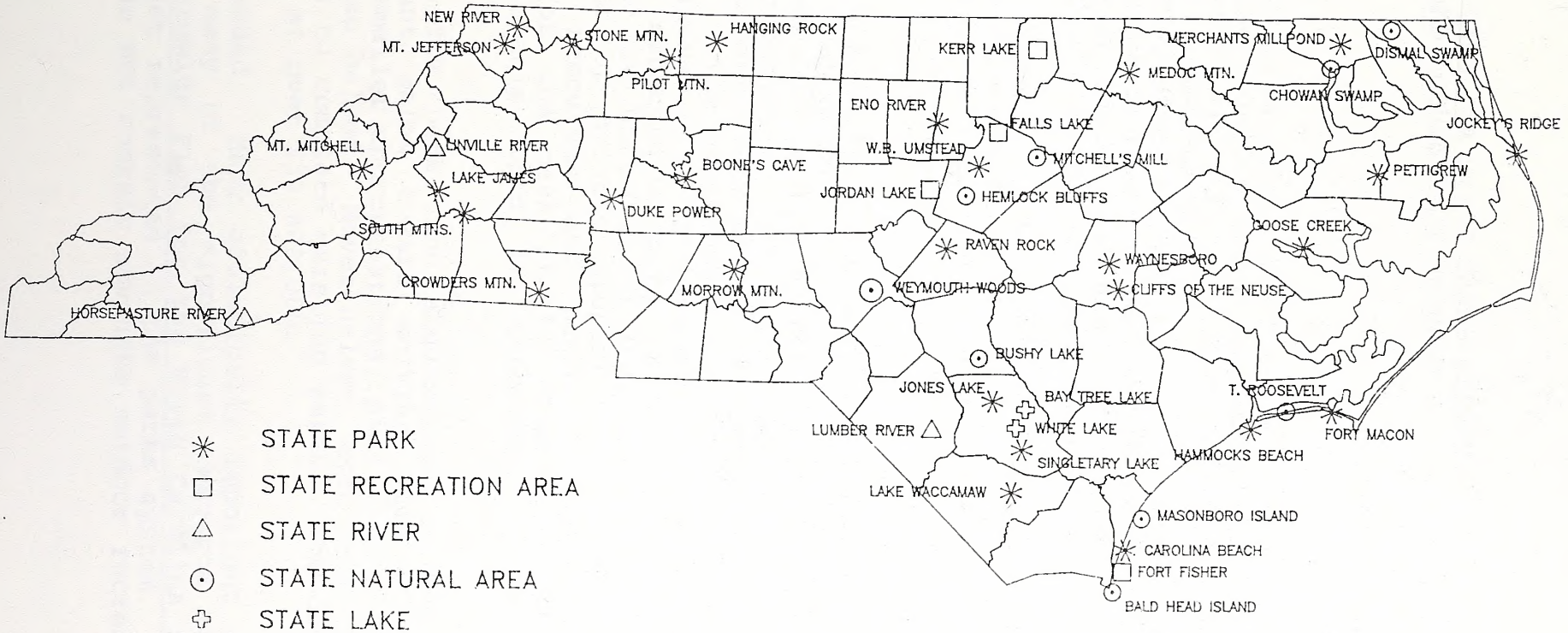
NORTH CAROLINA
STATE PARKS SYSTEM
1990



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NORTH CAROLINA STATE PARKS SYSTEM
LAND ACQUISITION PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

North Carolina's state parks serve the State's citizens in many ways. They preserve the splendid scenic landmarks which help to define the character of North Carolina. They provide refuge for many plant and animal species which are declining as North Carolina urbanizes. They offer refreshing and healthful outdoor recreation of a type which generally cannot be offered by private enterprise. They provide educational and research opportunities for North Carolina's children, students and scientists.

All of these services depend on an adequate land base for the parks. Park land should encompass and buffer the park's major natural and cultural resources, and should contain enough relatively flat, well-drained land for construction of park facilities.

Most of North Carolina's state parks were established through gifts and donations. Funding for land acquisition to supplement these donations has been erratic and insufficient. This has left many of the parks incomplete. Some parks do not completely contain the scenic landmarks they were established to preserve. Potential development in the watersheds and near the boundaries leaves some parks vulnerable to environmental damage. Buffer areas are needed to separate campers, picnickers and other visitors from the noise and pollution of development adjacent to the parks. Inholdings of private property within the parks threaten the park's resources and present management and operations problems for the park staff. Some parks do not include enough developable land to construct needed park facilities.

A large appropriation for park land acquisition in 1985 has resulted in significant gains toward solving many of these problems. Subsequent smaller appropriations, plus several grants and donations, have also helped. Nevertheless, more than 18,000 acres are still needed to complete existing parks. The cost of this land is estimated at over $59,000,000.

New parks are also needed. Many ecologically important areas need protection, and many of the significant resource themes identified in the Systemwide Plan for the North Carolina State Parks System are not yet represented in the parks system. Many regions of the state do not contain adequate outdoor recreation lands.

In the past, gifts, donations, and purchases of new park lands were not accompanied by adequate funding for staffing, management, protection, or construction of park facilities. This resulted in a chronically underfunded and understaffed parks system. To help remedy this situation, the State Parks Act was passed in 1987. This Act requires the addition of new units to the state parks system to be approved by the General Assembly, and to be accompanied by appropriations for acquisition, staffing and development of the park. Therefore, land can be acquired to complete existing parks, but cannot be acquired for new parks unless authorized by the General Assembly.

Priorities for land acquisition projects are based on several factors. All of the parks serve beneficial public purposes, but some parks contain natural or cultural resources of relatively greater significance than others. Priority is given to parks with highly significant resources. A second factor is the relationship of an individual tract to the whole park. Critical inholdings and tracts essential to the ecological and recreational integrity of the park are given high priority.

Third is the threat of logging, development, or subdivision which may irreparably damage the tract or make it unavailable for addition to the park. A property suddenly threatened with incompatible development may require a sudden change in priorities to enable us to protect important resources. Finally, the willingness of the landowner to sell the property can be an important consideration. Property can be purchased from a willing seller more quickly and at a better price than from an unwilling seller. Condemnation can be expensive, and is generally avoided unless damage to the resource is threatened.

The following pages show land acquisition plans for parks in the state parks system, based on master plans, management plans, and other park plans. Lands acquired since the 1985 legislative appropriation are indicated, as well as properties whose acquisition is pending. Lands still needed for each park are identified, and the estimated cost of the needed land is listed.

LAND ACQUISITION PROCESS

Procedure	Approximate Time Required
1. Division of Parks and Recreation (DPR) completes property deed and tax research, requests appraisal	14 days
2. Office of State Property (OSP) contracts property appraisal	30-90 days
3. DPR reviews appraisal, secures Department approval, and transmits authorization to acquire (PO-1) to OSP	14 days
4. OSP negotiates with landowner, secures purchase option	30 days
5. OSP contracts property survey	30-60 days
6. Joint Legislative Committee on Government Operations and Council of State approve acquisition	7-30 days
7. OSP contracts title opinion	30-60 days
8. OSP closes sale of property	14 days
Total Time Required	169-312 days
	(Approximately 5 to 10 months)

The time required for state acquisition of property depends on several factors, including the complexity of the appraisal, potential problems with the title, the landowners' acceptance of the appraised value, and the timing of their acceptance relative to the agenda of the Joint Legislative Committee on Government Operations and the Council of State. The time required for negotiations with the landowner (Step 4) can be lengthened considerably if the landowner disagrees with the appraised value, or simply does not wish to accept the state's offer.

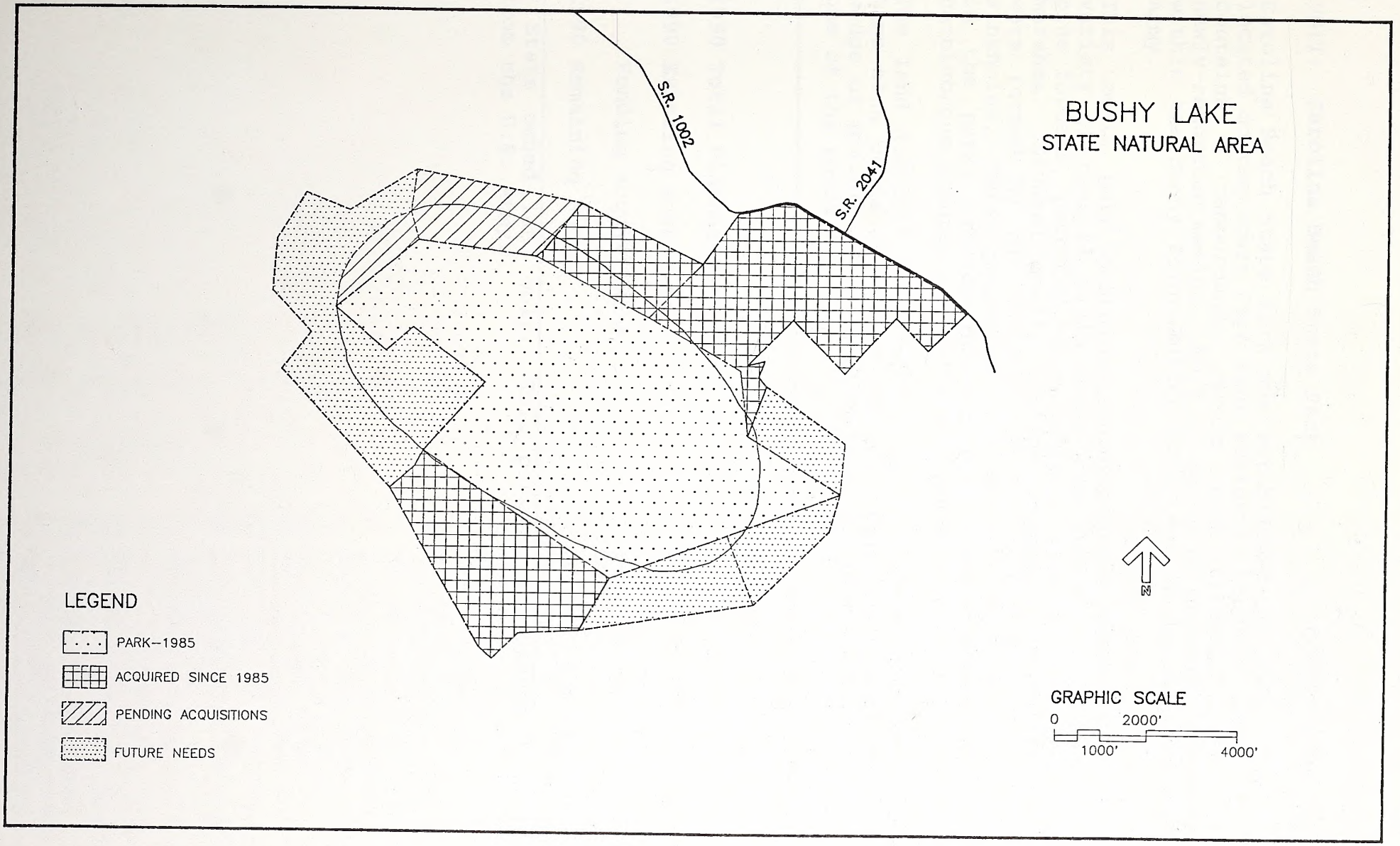
UNIT: **Bushy Lake State Natural Area** COUNTY: Cumberland

Shallow, elliptical depressions called Carolina Bays are found throughout the North Carolina coastal plain. A few of the Bays contain open water, forming lakes, but most are covered with vegetation. Many of the vegetation-filled Bays have been drained and converted to agriculture or other uses.

Bushy Lake State Natural Area is one of the remaining undisturbed vegetation-filled Carolina Bays. It includes part of the wetlands in the center of a large Bay and part of the upland sand rim around the edge of the bay. The natural area contains rare, extremely high quality natural communities, and several rare plant and animal species.

Because the state owns only part of the Bay, the natural area could be severely impacted by clearing and draining activities on adjacent land. The land acquisition objective is to protect the entire bay and its intact sand rim.

	Acres	Cost
1990 Total Planned Park Size	3,274	
1990 Existing Park Size	2,275	
Pending Acquisitions	270	
1990 Remaining Needs	729	$ 244,000


BUSHY LAKE
STATE NATURAL AREA
S.R. 1002
S.R. 2041
LEGEND
PARK–1985
ACQUIRED SINCE 1985
PENDING ACQUISITIONS
FUTURE NEEDS
N
GRAPHIC SCALE
0
2000'
1000'
4000'

UNIT: **Carolina Beach State Park** COUNTY: New Hanover

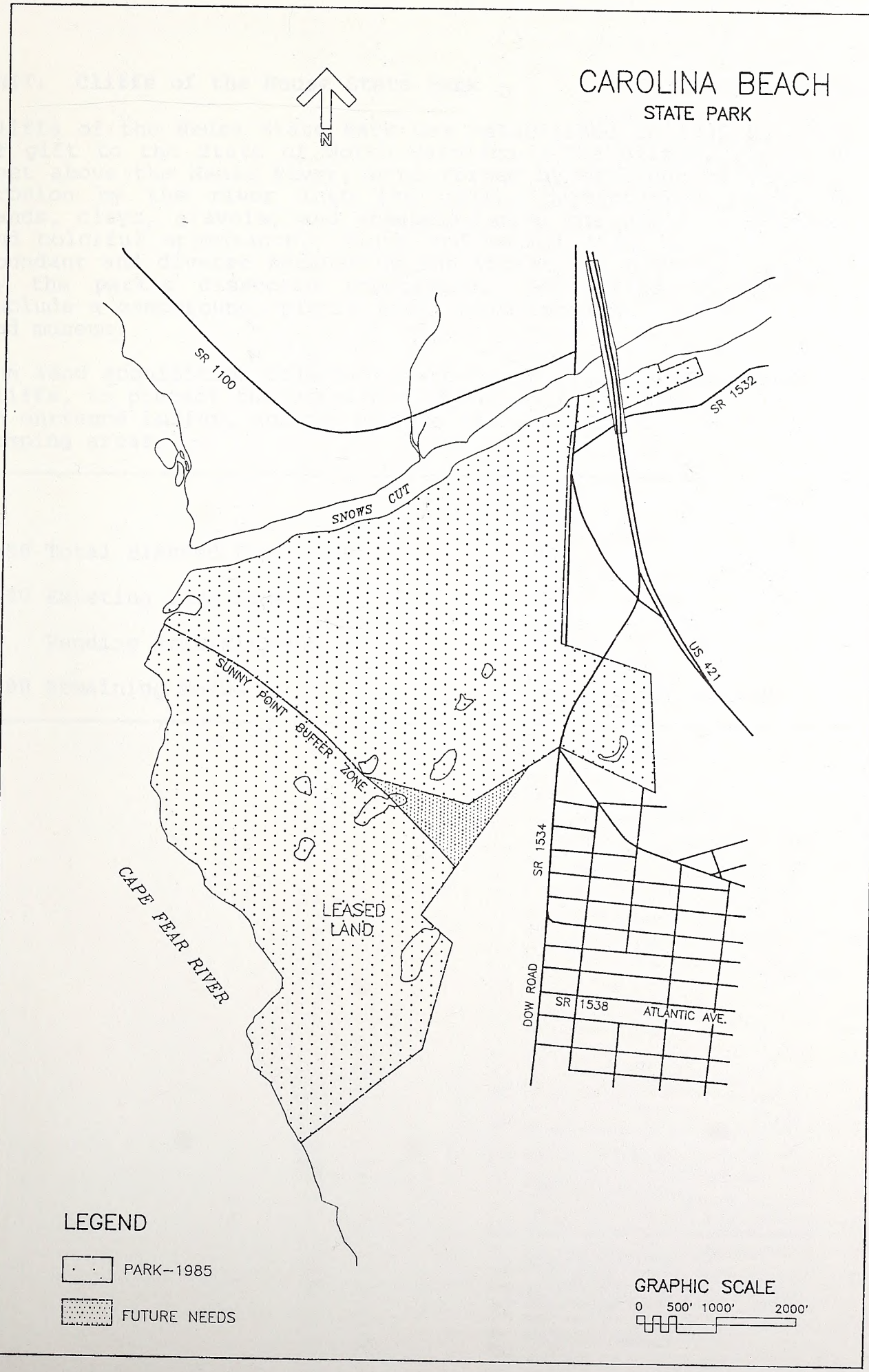
Carolina Beach State Park was established in 1969. The park is located on the Lower Cape Fear Peninsula south of Snow's Cut, and contains a campground, picnic area, hiking trails, and a newly-renovated marina. Much of the land included in the park is within the Sunny Point Buffer Zone, and is leased from the U.S. Army.

This small park contains representative examples of a wide variety of coastal plain plant communities, including longleaf pine forests, pocosins, swamp forest, pine savannas and brackish marshes. Several small, shallow freshwater ponds in the park were formed by the collapse of the underlying limestone into sinkholes. These ponds, as well as the other plant communities in the park, provide habitat for several species of unusual carnivorous plants, including the Venus' fly trap.

The land acquisition objective is to protect the park's unique lime sink ponds and their unusual plant and animal species. A wedge of private property juts into the park and crosses through one of the ponds.

	Acres*	Cost
1990 Total Planned Park Size	444	
1990 Existing Park Size	420	
Pending Acquisitions	0	
1990 Remaining Needs	24	$ 360,000

* State owned land only. This park also includes land leased from the U.S. Army.

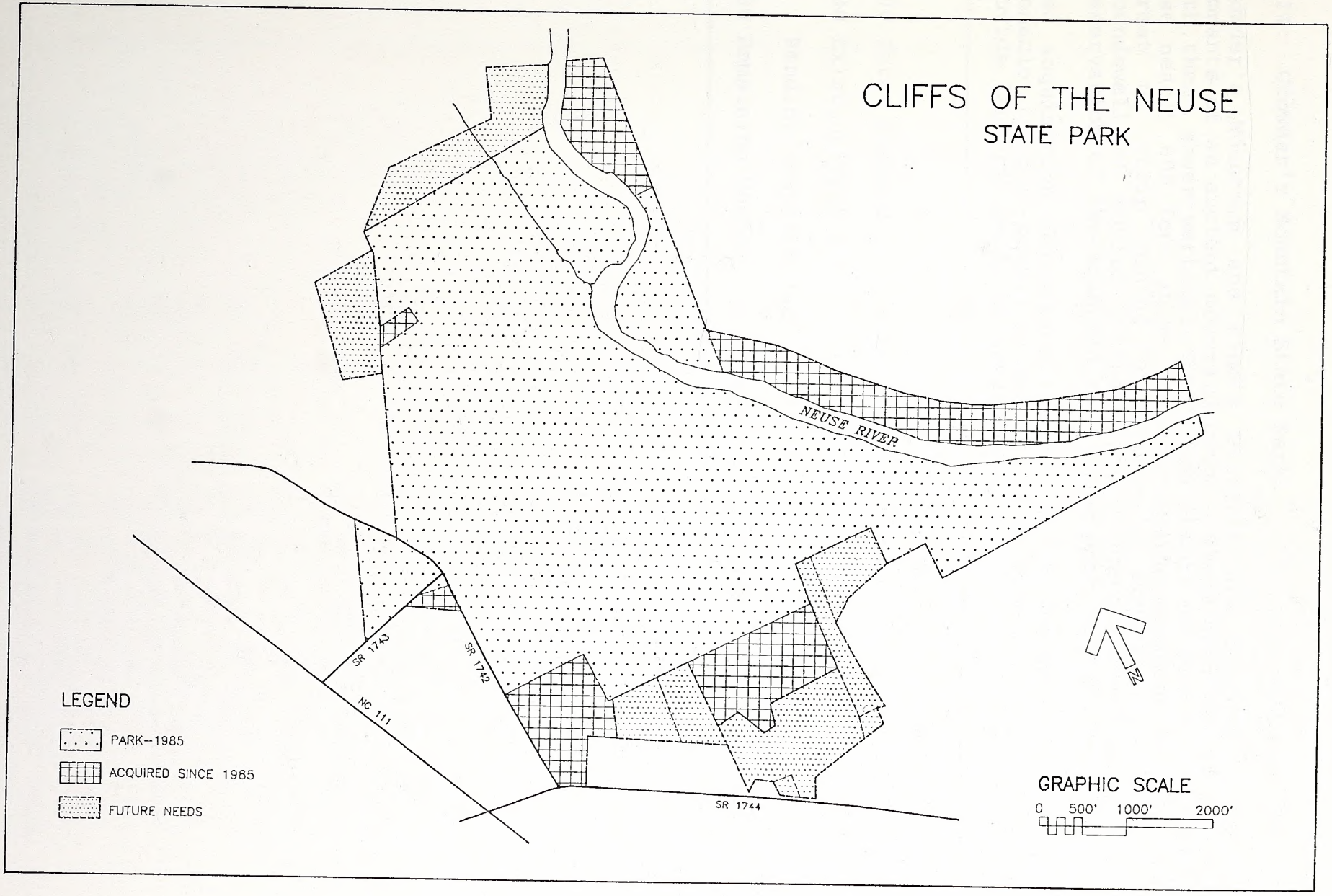

CAROLINA BEACH
STATE PARK
N
SR 1100
SR 1532
SNOWS CUT
US 421
SUNNY POINT BUFFER ZONE
SR 1534
LEASED LAND
CAPE FEAR RIVER
DOW ROAD
SR 1538
ATLANTIC AVE.
LEGEND
PARK–1985
FUTURE NEEDS
GRAPHIC SCALE
0 500' 1000' 2000'

UNIT: **Cliffs of the Neuse State Park** COUNTY: Wayne

Cliffs of the Neuse State Park was established in 1945 by deeds of gift to the State of North Carolina. The cliffs, rising 90 feet above the Neuse River, were formed by millions of years of erosion by the river into its bank. Multicolored layers of sands, clays, gravels, and seashells give the cliffs a streaked and colorful appearance. Plant and animal life in the park is abundant and diverse because of the variety of habitats provided by the park's dissected topography. Facilities in the park include a campground, picnic area, swimming lake, hiking trails, and museum.

The land acquisition objectives are to protect the view from the cliffs, to protect the watershed of the swimming lake, to provide an entrance buffer, and to improve staff access to the primitive camping areas.

	Acres	Cost
1990 Total Planned Park Size	907	
1990 Existing Park Size	750	
Pending Acquisitions	0	
1990 Remaining Needs	157	$ 163,550


CLIFFS OF THE NEUSE
STATE PARK
NEUSE RIVER
SR 1743
SR 1742
NC 111
SR 1744
N
LEGEND
PARK--1985
ACQUIRED SINCE 1985
FUTURE NEEDS
GRAPHIC SCALE
0 500' 1000' 2000'

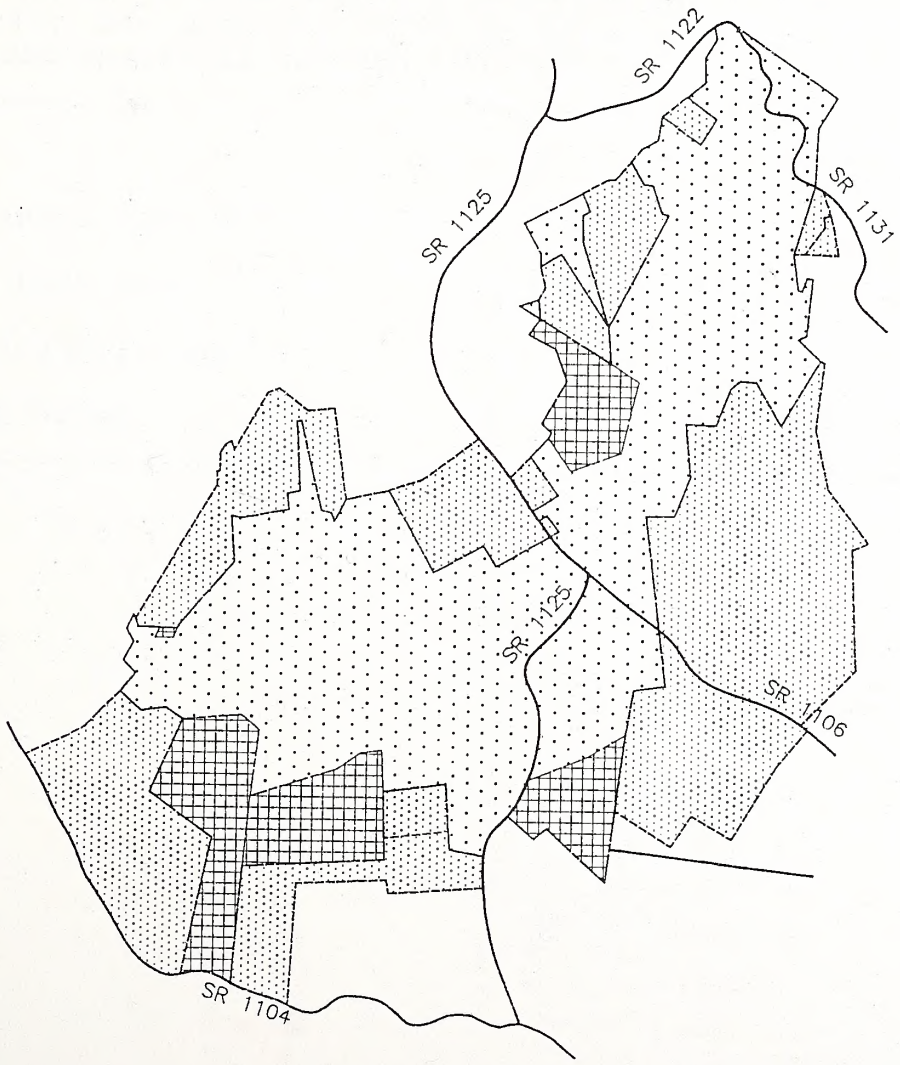
UNIT: **Crowder's Mountain State Park** COUNTY: Gaston

Crowder's Mountain and King's Pinnacle are erosion resistant remnants of an ancient mountain range. These spectacular ridges, with their sheer vertical cliffs and inspiring scenic overlooks, rise nearly 800 feet above the surrounding piedmont hills. The threat of strip mining on Crowder's Mountain generated a groundswell of public interest and concern, resulting in the preservation of the mountain as a state park in 1973.

Land acquisition objectives are to add the remainder of King's Pinnacle to the park, to protect the scenic vistas, and to provide land for facility development.

	Acres	Cost
1990 Total Planned Park Size	4,018	
1990 Existing Park Size	2,364	
Pending Acquisitions	0	
1990 Remaining Needs	1,654	$ 4,275,000

CROWDER'S MOUNTAIN
STATE PARK



LEGEND

- PARK–1985
- ACQUIRED SINCE 1985
- FUTURE NEEDS

N

GRAPHIC SCALE
0 1000' 3000'
500' 2000'

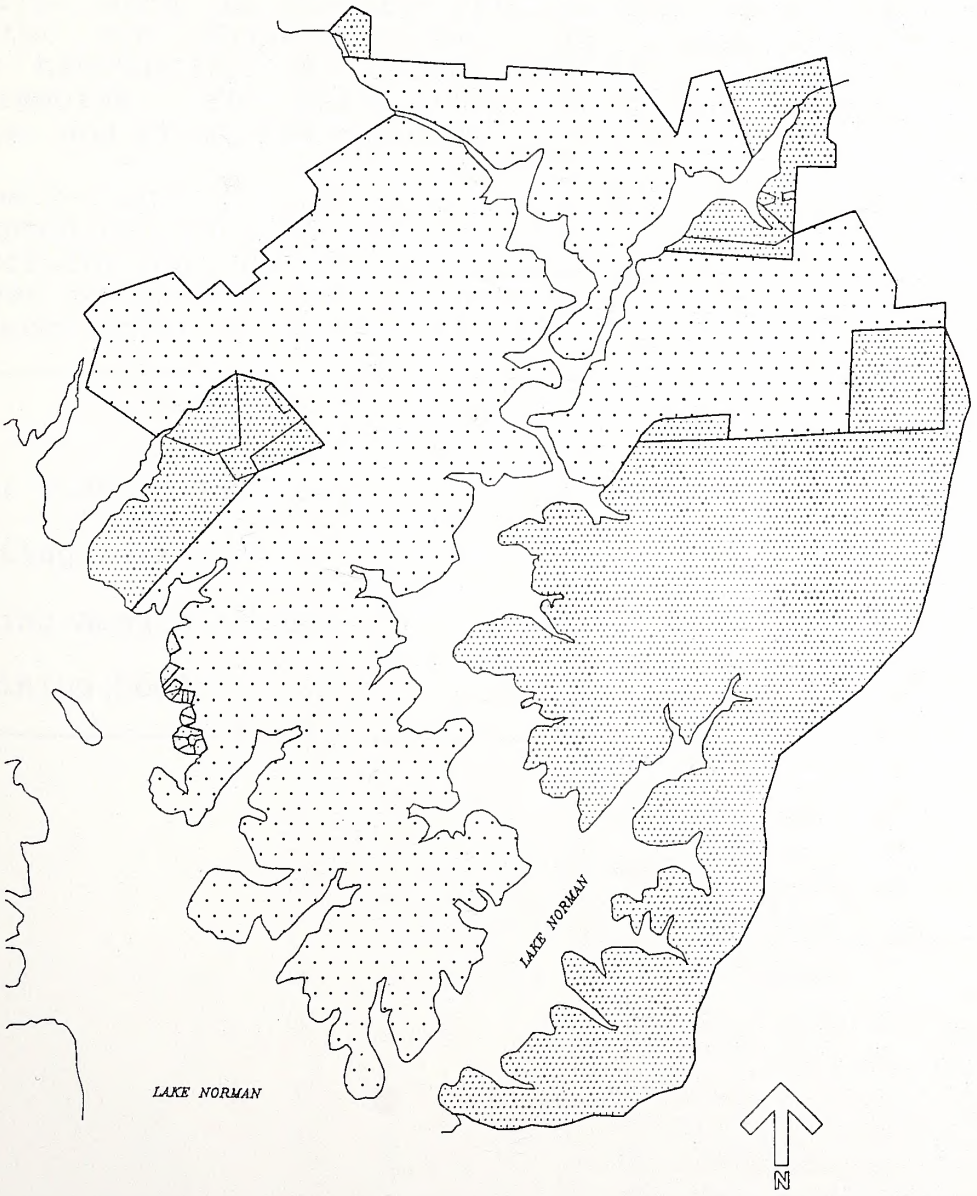
UNIT: **Duke Power State Park** COUNTY: Iredell

Duke Power State Park was established in 1962 by a donation of land from Duke Power Company. The park is located on Lake Norman and provides outdoor recreation facilities and public access to the lake.

Land acquisition objectives are to eliminate inholdings, to improve access control, to provide additional land for facility development, and to provide scenic protection and visual buffers. Highest priority for acquisition were several private property inholdings whose access is through the park.

	Acres	Cost
1990 Total Planned Park Size	2,427	
1990 Existing Park Size	1,458	
Pending Acquisitions	0	
1990 Remaining Needs	969	$ 9,690,000

DUKE POWER
STATE PARK



LEGEND

PARK–1985

FUTURE NEEDS

SCALE IN FEET

0 500 1000 2000 3000

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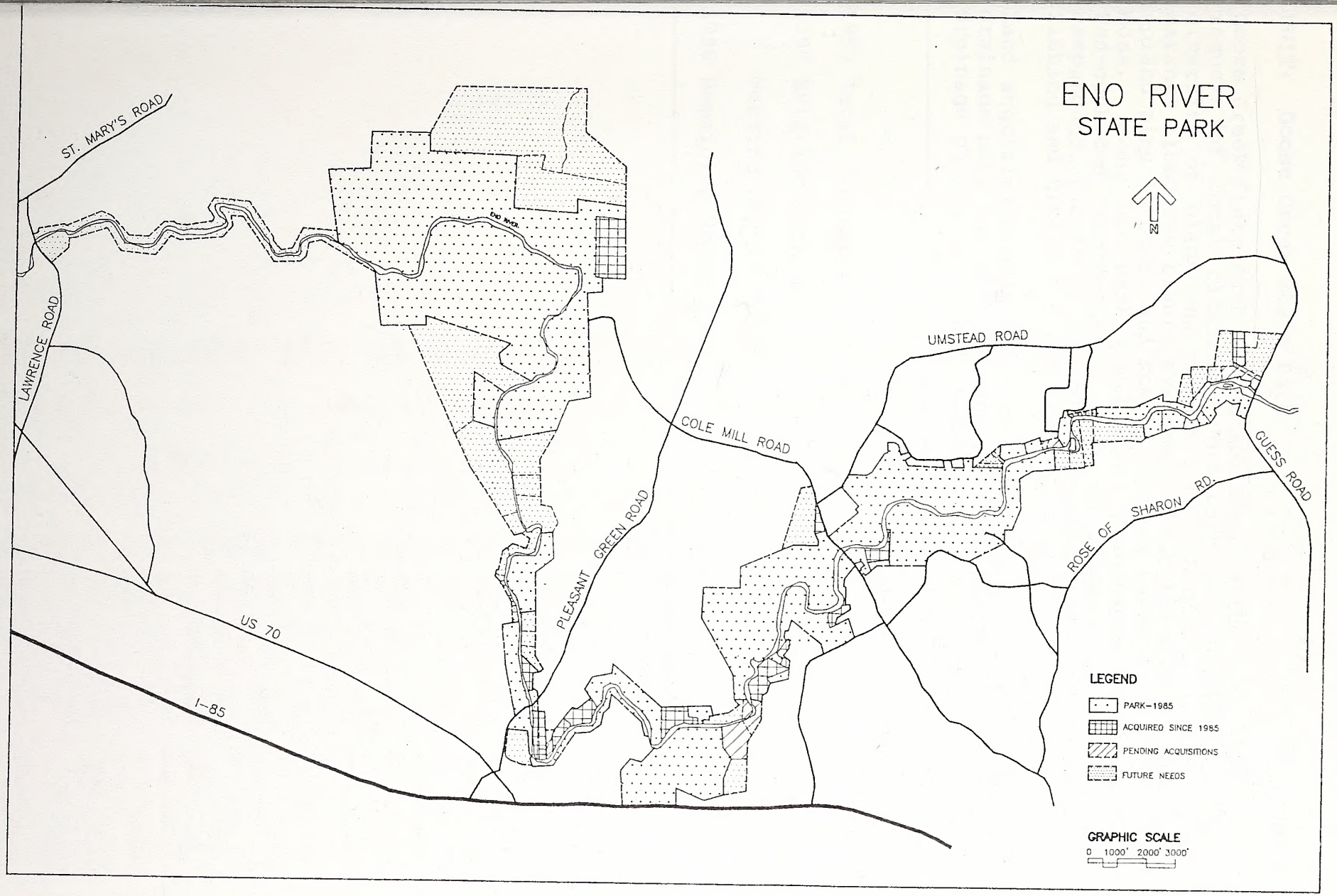
UNIT: **Eno River State Park** COUNTY: Durham & Orange

Eno River State Park lies within the Piedmont province of the state. The Eno River valley is rich in biological and cultural resources. The geology of the area has resulted in a river corridor that has a gorge-like valley with steep bluffs along the river's edge. Beautiful hardwood forests line the river banks, and wildlife such as beaver, wild turkey, mink, muskrat, and river otter are often observed. The river itself provides important habitat for a variety of fish, mussels, and other aquatic species. The park offers canoeing, fishing, hiking, picnicking, and primitive camping.

The primary land acquisition objective is to provide an uninterrupted corridor of park land along the river. The width of the corridor depends on the topography, which affects how far an observer on or near the river can see. Land is also needed for the development of park facilities.

	Acres	Cost
1990 Total Planned Park Size	3,126	
1990 Existing Park Size	2,133	
Pending Acquisitions	53	
1990 Remaining Needs	940	$ 6,875,000


ENO RIVER
STATE PARK
N
ST. MARY'S ROAD
LAWRENCE ROAD
US 70
I-85
PLEASANT GREEN ROAD
COLE MILL ROAD
UMSTEAD ROAD
ROSE OF SHARON RD.
GUESS ROAD
LEGEND
PARK-1985
ACQUIRED SINCE 1985
PENDING ACQUISITIONS
FUTURE NEEDS
GRAPHIC SCALE
0 1000' 2000' 3000'

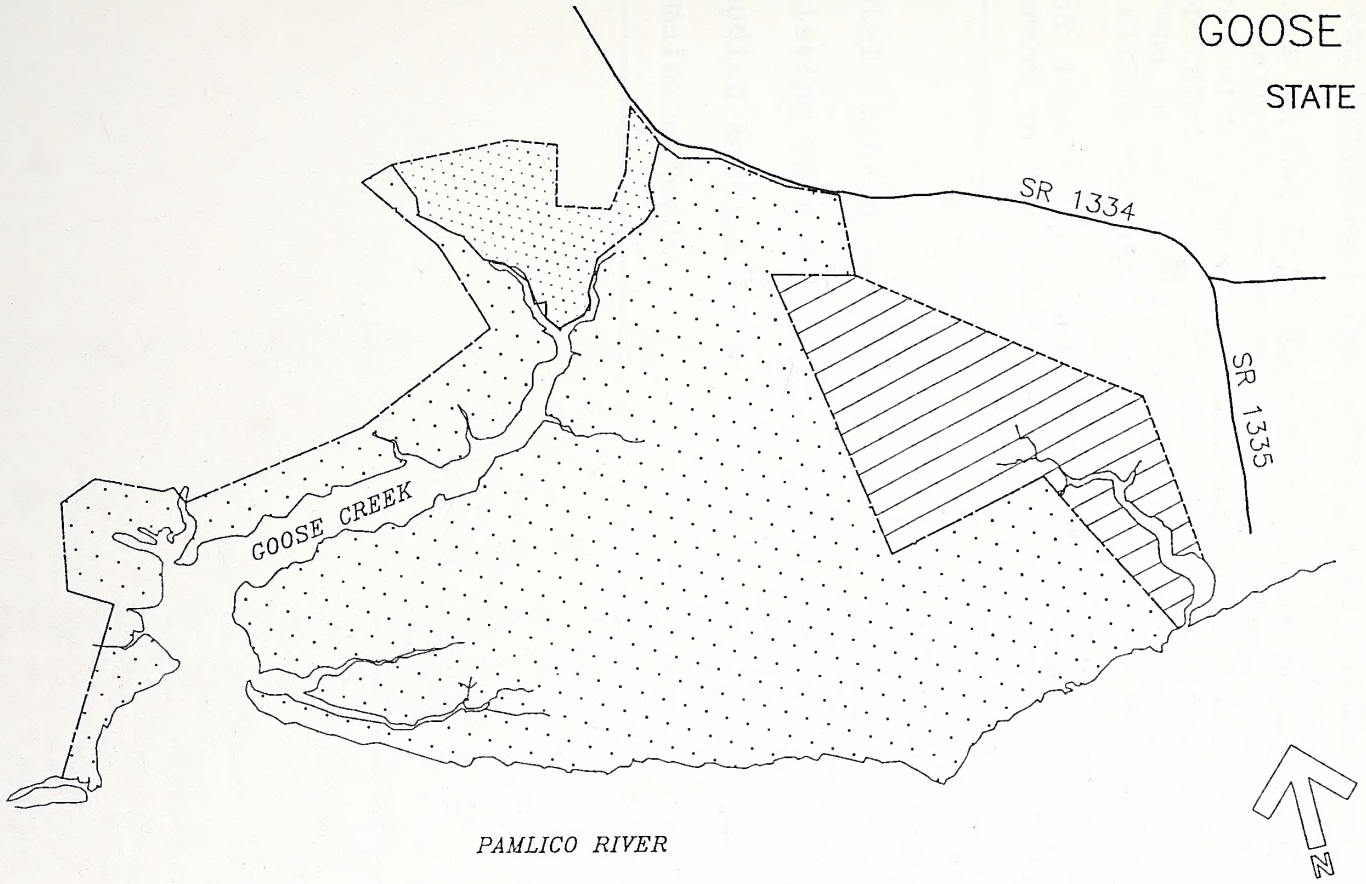
UNIT: **Goose Creek State Park** COUNTY: Beaufort

Goose Creek State Park was established in the early 1970's at the request of local citizens. The park is notable for its rich diversity of plant and animal life. Habitats include brackish marshes along the river, evergreen shrub thickets, swamp forests, upland pine forests, and scenic cypress trees draped with Spanish moss. Among the park's wildlife inhabitants is the endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker. Park facilities include a family campground, picnic area, and swimming beach. Canoeing, boating, fishing and hiking are popular activities.

Land acquisition objectives are to protect the Upper Goose Creek drainage near the park entrance, and to protect the Mallard Creek drainage on the east side of the park.

	Acres	Cost
1990 Total Planned Park Size	1,693	
1990 Existing Park Size	1,327	
Pending Acquisitions	270	
1990 Remaining Needs	96	$ 198,000

GOOSE CREEK
STATE PARK



LEGEND

- PARK–1985
- PENDING ACQUISITIONS
- FUTURE NEEDS

GRAPHIC SCALE

0 500' 1000' 2000' 4000'

UNIT: **Hammocks Beach State Park** COUNTY: Onslow

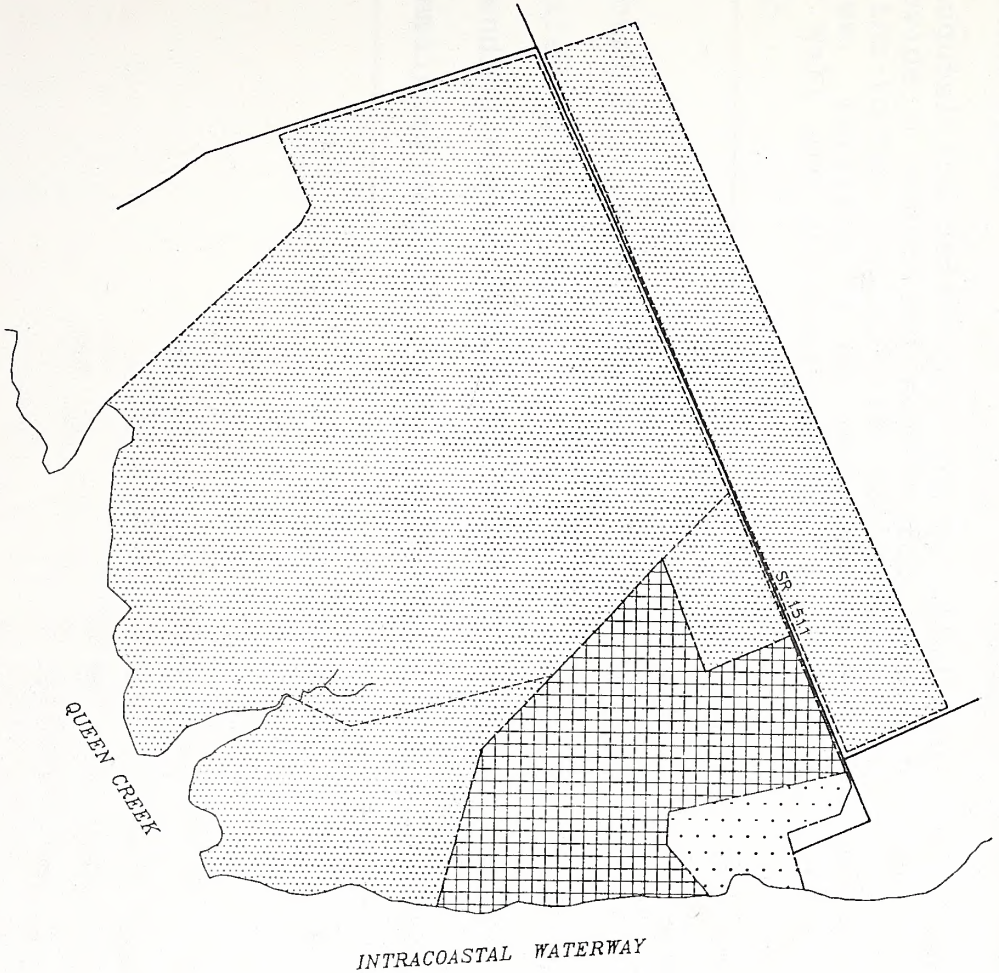
Hammocks Beach State Park was established in 1960 by a gift of the undeveloped barrier island known as Bear Island plus a mainland ferry landing. With no road access, Bear Island provides visitors with an opportunity to experience an unspoiled wilderness of dunes, beach, marshes and maritime forest. Endangered loggerhead sea turtles nest on the island's beach.

Facilities on the island portion of the park include a bathhouse, picnic shelters, an interpretive center, and primitive camping. Visitors often have to wait on the mainland to ride the state-operated ferry to the island. Vehicle camping, picnic sites, and other facilities are needed on the mainland to serve park visitors adequately.

The land acquisition objective is to provide land for facility development on the mainland portion of the park.

	Acres	Cost
1990 Total Planned Park Size	900	
1990 Existing Park Size	736	
Pending Acquisitions	0	
1990 Remaining Needs	164	$ 2,460,000

HAMMOCKS BEACH
STATE PARK
MAINLAND SECTION



N

LEGEND

- PARK–1985
- ACQUIRED SINCE 1985
- FUTURE NEEDS

GRAPHIC SCALE

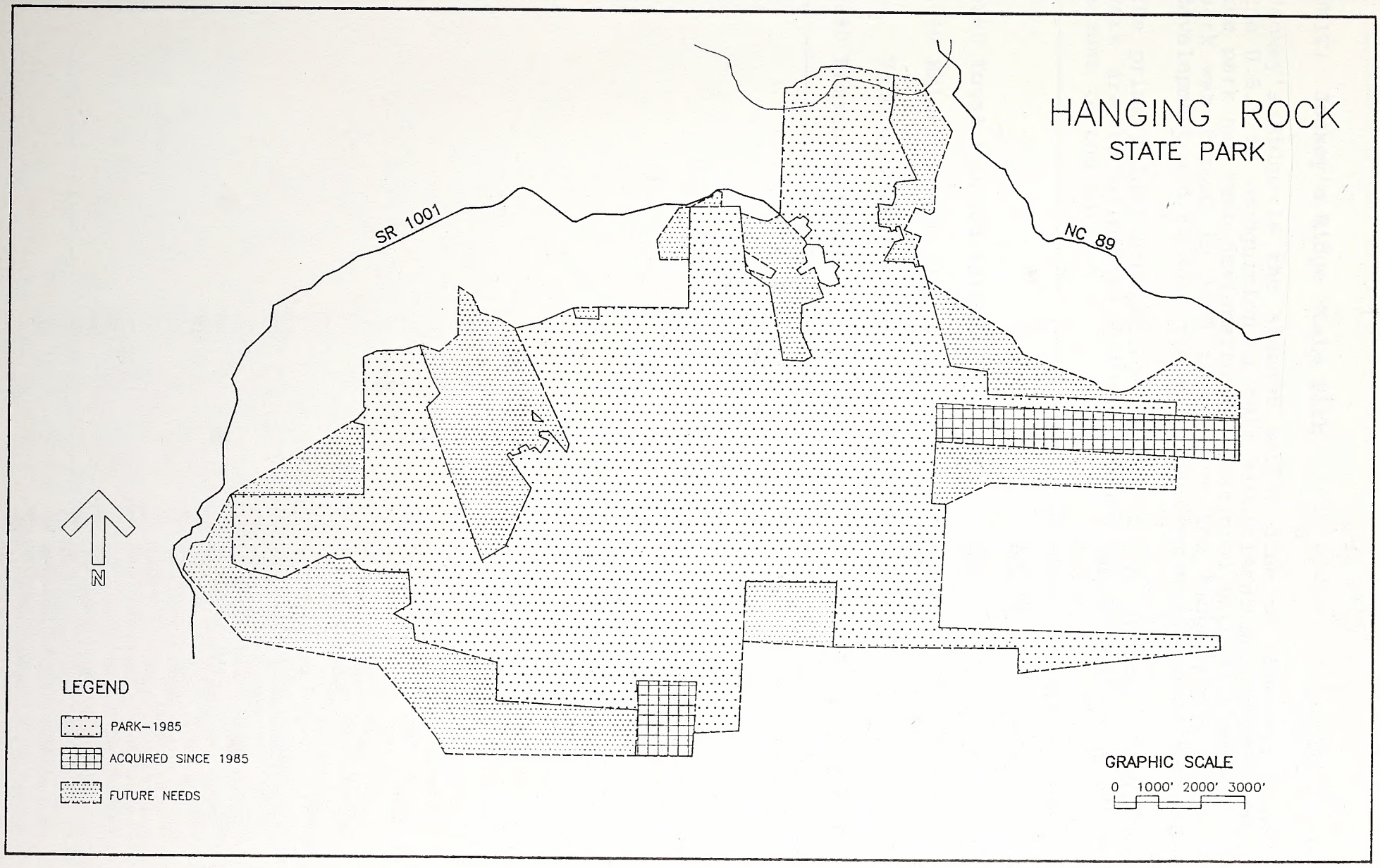
0 300' 600'

UNIT: **Hanging Rock State Park** COUNTY: Stokes

Hanging Rock State Park was donated to the State of North Carolina in 1936. Many of the park's facilities were built by the Civilian Conservation Corps. The park lies within the Sauratown Mountains, and is characterized by rugged terrain, scenic waterfalls, and dramatic cliffs and peaks. Many rare and unusual mountain species of plants and animals can be found within the park.

Land acquisition objectives are to eliminate partial inholdings, to provide a route and access for a segment of the statewide Mountains-to-Sea Trail, and to protect and buffer the scenic features. Portions of the escarpments known as Moore's Wall and Cook's Wall are privately owned, although they are used by the public.

	Acres	Cost
1990 Total Planned Park Size	8,508	
1990 Existing Park Size	6,193	
Pending Acquisitions	1	
1990 Remaining Needs	2,314	$ 3,517,000


HANGING ROCK
STATE PARK
SR 1001
NC 89
N
LEGEND
PARK–1985
ACQUIRED SINCE 1985
FUTURE NEEDS
GRAPHIC SCALE
0 1000' 2000' 3000'

HYMENIC LOCK

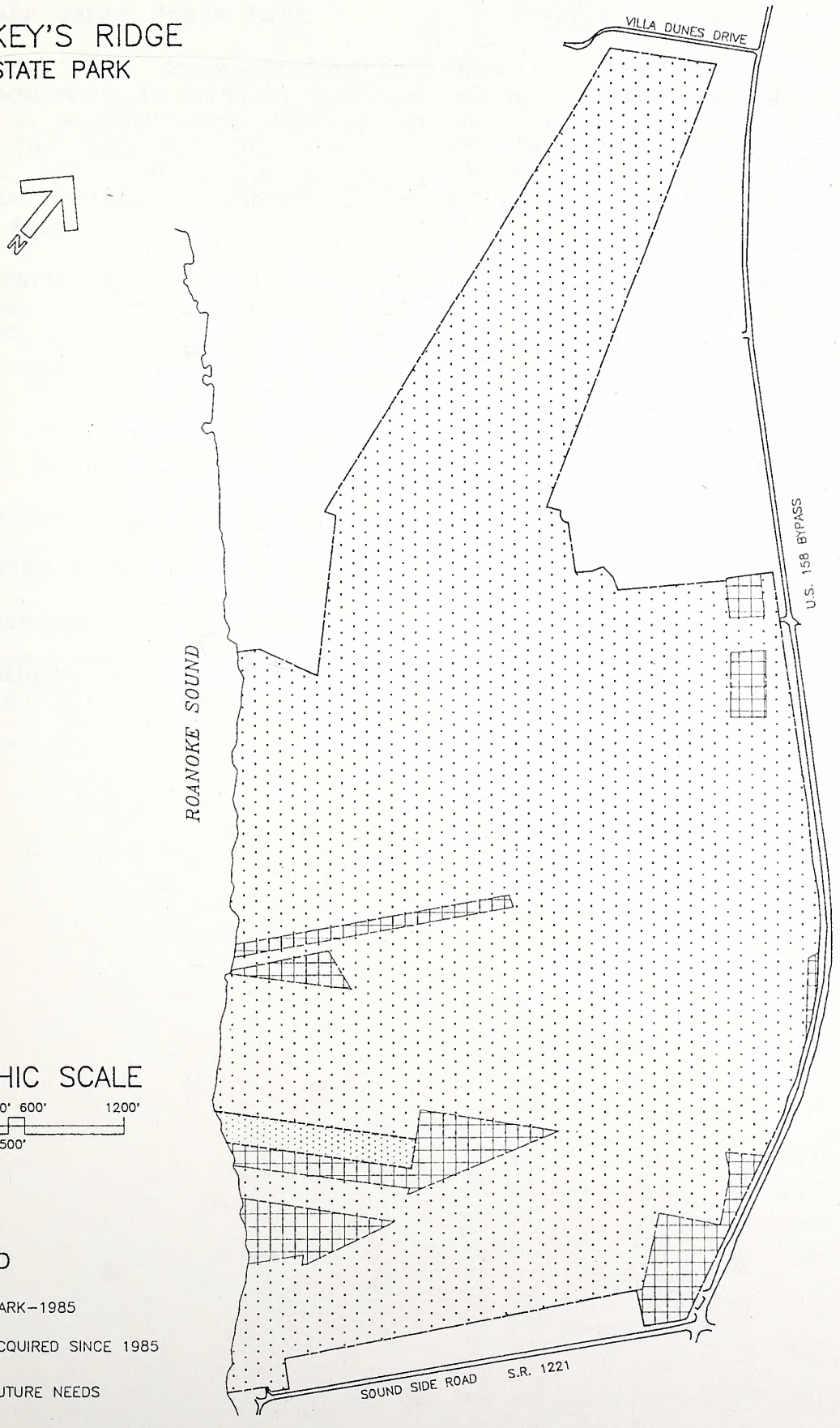
UNIT: **Jockey's Ridge State Park** COUNTY: Dare

Jockey's Ridge is the highest active dune on the east coast of the U.S. In recognition of this significant geological feature, the park has been designated as a National Natural Landmark. The park was formed in 1975 to protect the ridge from residential development and to save the area for continued public recreation.

The primary land acquisition objectives at Jockey's Ridge State Park are to eliminate private inholdings and to provide safe access to the park.

	Acres	Cost
1990 Total Planned Park Size	420	
1990 Existing Park Size	414	
Pending Acquisitions	< 1	
1990 Remaining Needs	6	$ 180,000

JOCKEY'S RIDGE
STATE PARK



GRAPHIC SCALE

0 200' 400' 600' 1200'

100' 300' 500'

LEGEND

- PARK–1985
- ACQUIRED SINCE 1985
- FUTURE NEEDS

UNIT: **Lake James State Park** COUNTY: McDowell & Burke

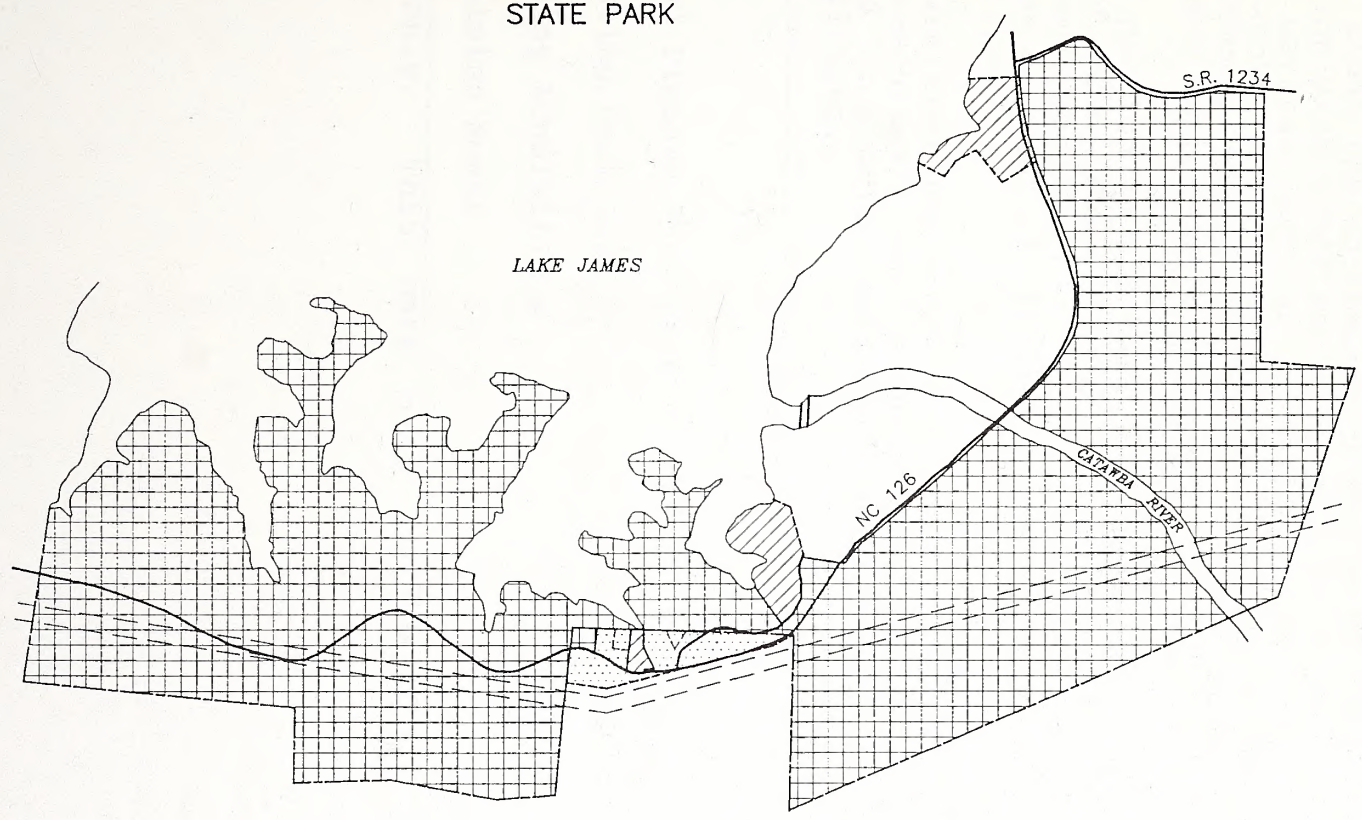
Lake James State Park was established by the North Carolina General Assembly in 1987 to provide public outdoor recreation on Lake James, a 6510-acre impoundment on the Catawba and Linville Rivers. The lake is very scenic, and the natural resources of the park are typical of the upper Piedmont region. Park facilities include a campground, swimming area, picnic area, and nature trails.

The primary land acquisition objective is to eliminate inholdings. Other land acquisition needs are still being determined.

	Acres	Cost
1990 Total Planned Park Size	579*	
1990 Existing Park Size	566	
Pending Acquisitions	3	
1990 Remaining Needs	10*	$ 345,000

* Preliminary recommendations. Land acquisition planning is incomplete.

LAKE JAMES
STATE PARK



LEGEND

- ACQUIRED SINCE 1985
- PENDING ACQUISITIONS
- FUTURE NEEDS

GRAPHIC SCALE

0 500' 1000' 2000'

UNIT: **Lake Waccamaw State Park** COUNTY: Columbus

Lake Waccamaw is the second largest Carolina Bay lake in North Carolina, containing 8,938 acres. Most Carolina Bay lakes are acidic, but Lake Waccamaw's water is neutral due to the limestone outcrops along the northeastern shoreline. This circumstance, in combination with other factors, creates a unique habitat which is home to several species of fish, clams, and snails which are found nowhere else in the world. The rare and unique fauna of Lake Waccamaw makes this park one of North Carolina's most significant biological resources.

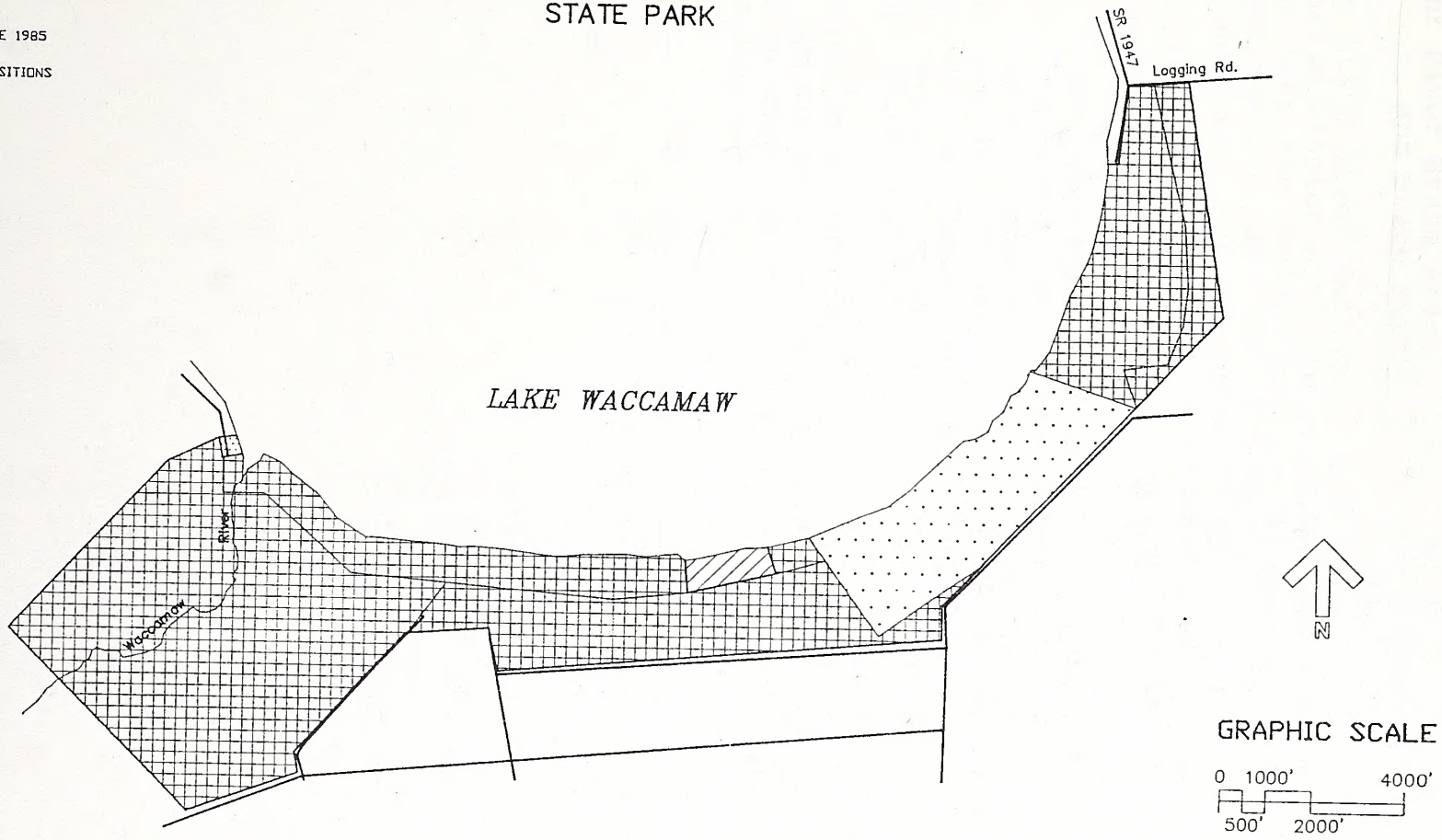
The land portion of the park lies along the southern and eastern shores of the lake. Plant communities include longleaf pine ridges, wet pocosins, pine savannas, and swamp forests. Park facilities are still limited, and include a picnic area and swimming pier.

Land acquisition objectives are to protect the wetlands and other natural resources along the undeveloped southern shoreline of the lake, and to provide sufficient upland area for development of park facilities.

	Acres*	Cost
1990 Total Planned Park Size	1,734	
1990 Existing Park Size	1,699	
Pending Acquisitions	33	
1990 Remaining Needs	2	$ 150,000

* Land only. This park also includes the 8938-acre Lake Waccamaw.

LAKE WACCAMAW
STATE PARK



UNIT: Lumber River State River and State Park

COUNTY: Columbus, Hoke, Robeson, and Scotland

Lumber River State River and State Park were established in the 1989 legislative session with the permanent addition of 102 miles of the river into the North Carolina Natural and Scenic Rivers System. Designation of the Lumber River recognizes the biological, cultural and geological resources associated with this river. The Lumber River lies within the Coastal Plain province of the State and is the first designated State River outside the mountains.

The Lumber River provides excellent wildlife habitat, and has very good examples of characteristic blackwater stream communities. The six known communities found along the river are the Sand and Mud Bar, Coastal Plain Levee Forest (Blackwater subtype), Cypress-gum Swamp (Blackwater subtype), Coastal Plain Bottomland Hardwood (Blackwater subtype), Pine Savannah, and Xeric Sandhill Scrub communities.

Land acquisition needs for the newest unit of the North Carolina State Parks System have not been determined. Land acquisition needs are being assessed and planning is underway. Mapping for this unit has begun.

No map attached.

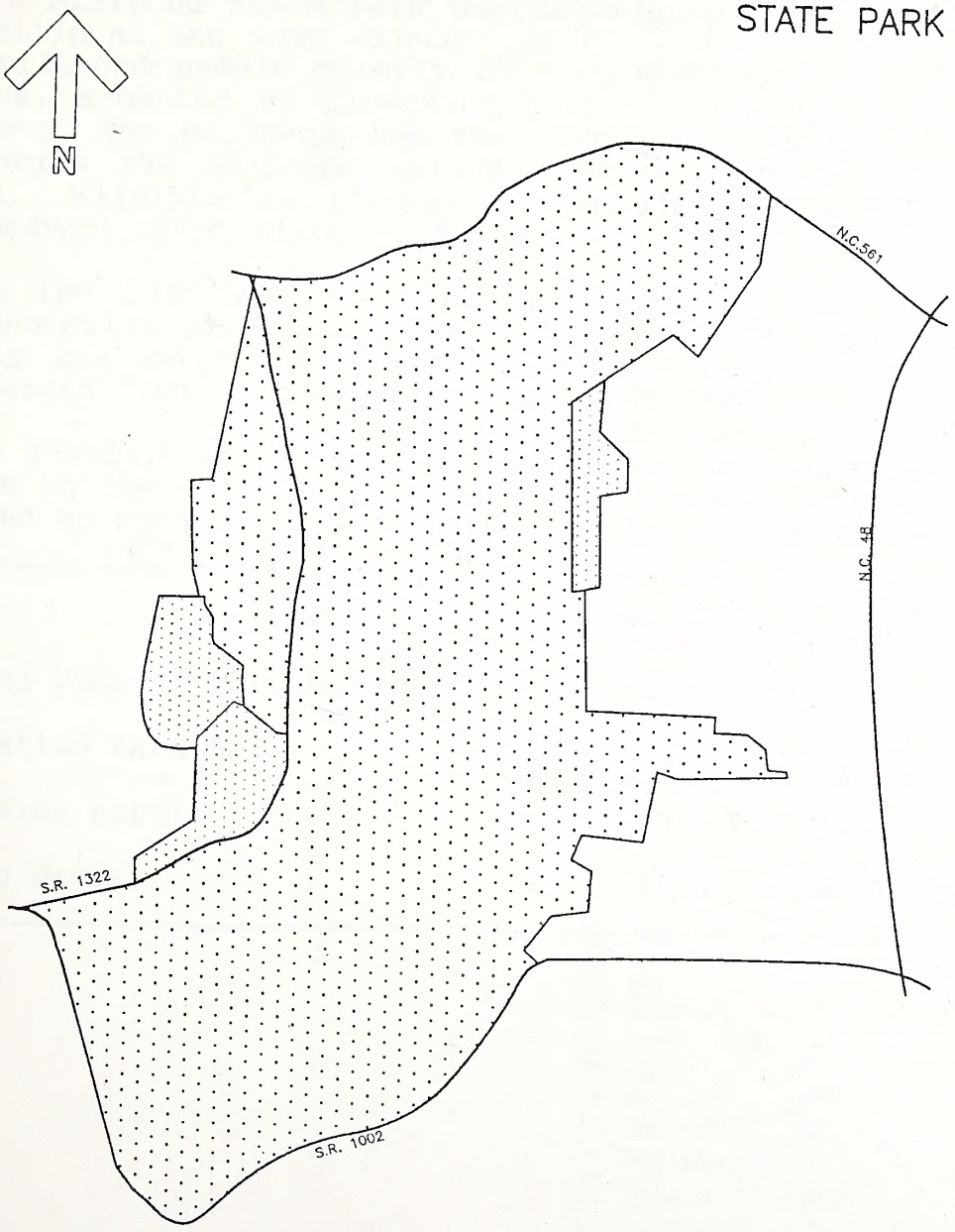
UNIT: **Medoc Mountain State Park** COUNTY: Halifax

Medoc Mountain State Park was established in 1973. The "mountain", which is actually a biotite granite ridge resistant to weathering, lies in the transition area between the Piedmont and upper coastal plain. The park contains a mixture of second-growth pine forests, upland hardwoods, and floodplain forests. The bluffs and ravines are scenic, and the creeks are popular for canoeing and fishing. Park facilities include a picnic area, campgrounds and hiking trails.

The primary land acquisition objectives are to provide adequate developable land for planned facilities, and to improve access control.

	Acres	Cost
1990 Total Planned Park Size	2,479	
1990 Existing Park Size	2,287	
Pending Acquisitions	0	
1990 Remaining Needs	192	$ 288,000

MEDOC MOUNTAIN
STATE PARK



LEGEND

PARK–1985

FUTURE NEEDS

GRAPHIC SCALE

0 1000' 2000'

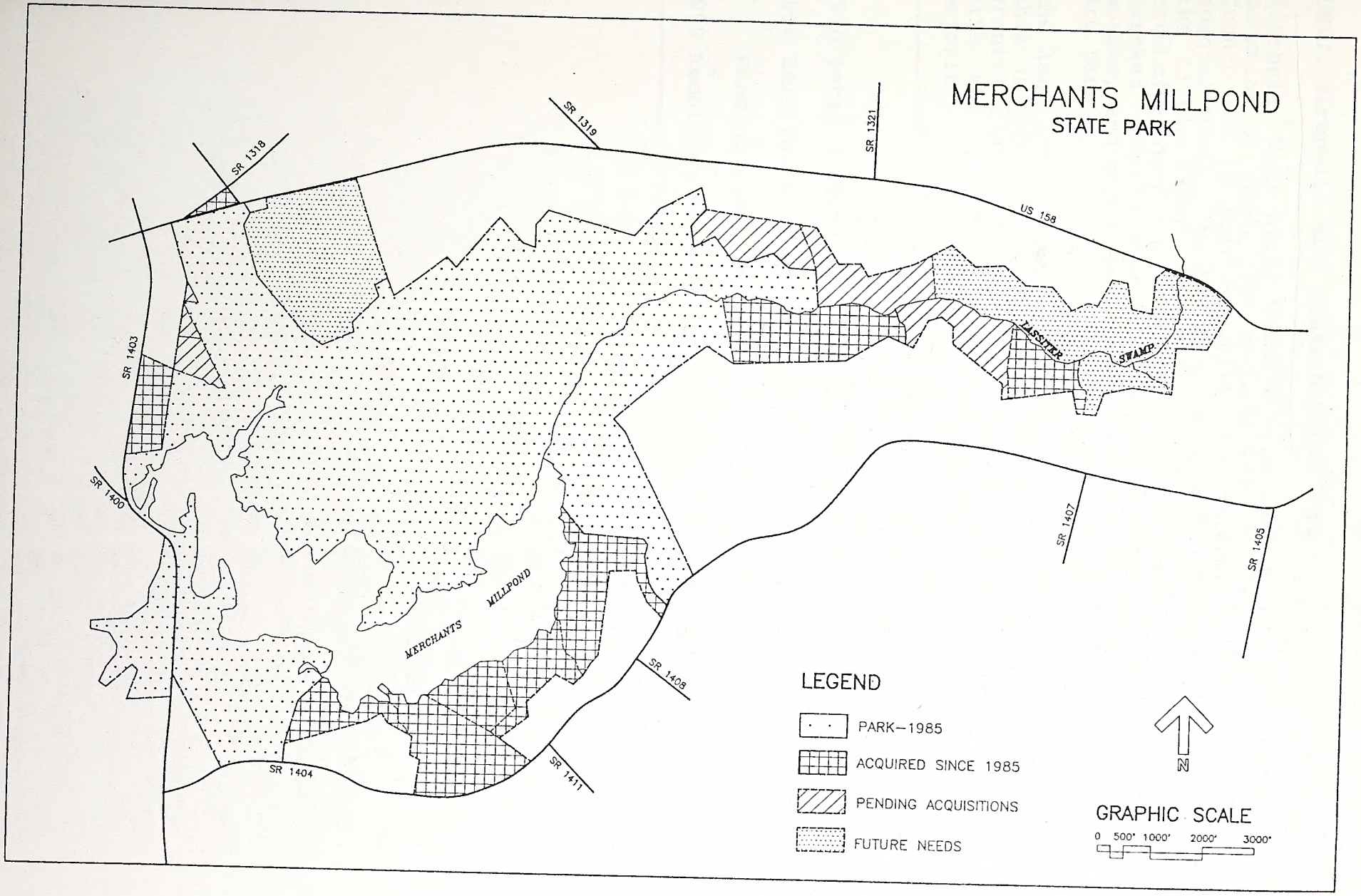
UNIT: **Merchants Millpond State Park** COUNTY: Gates

Merchants Millpond State Park was established in 1973 by a gift of the millpond and some adjacent land. Canoeists and fishermen on the millpond paddle quietly among stately cypress and tupelo gum trees, accented by flowering water lilies and swamp roses. Upstream of the millpond are the large, old trees of Lassiter Swamp, while the adjacent uplands contain forests of pine and hardwood. Wildlife is plentiful, including song birds, water birds, beaver, river otter, and bobcat.

Prior to the 1985 appropriation, the park did not include the entire shoreline of the millpond. This left the pond vulnerable to scenic and water quality degradation, and created a visitor safety hazard from hunting on the adjacent land.

The land acquisition objectives are to add the remainder of the shoreline to the park, to protect the upper portions of Lassiter Swamp, and to provide upland areas for facility development.

	Acres	Cost
1990 Total Planned Park Size	3,729	
1990 Existing Park Size	2,918	
Pending Acquisitions	171	
Remaining Needs	640	$ 833,000

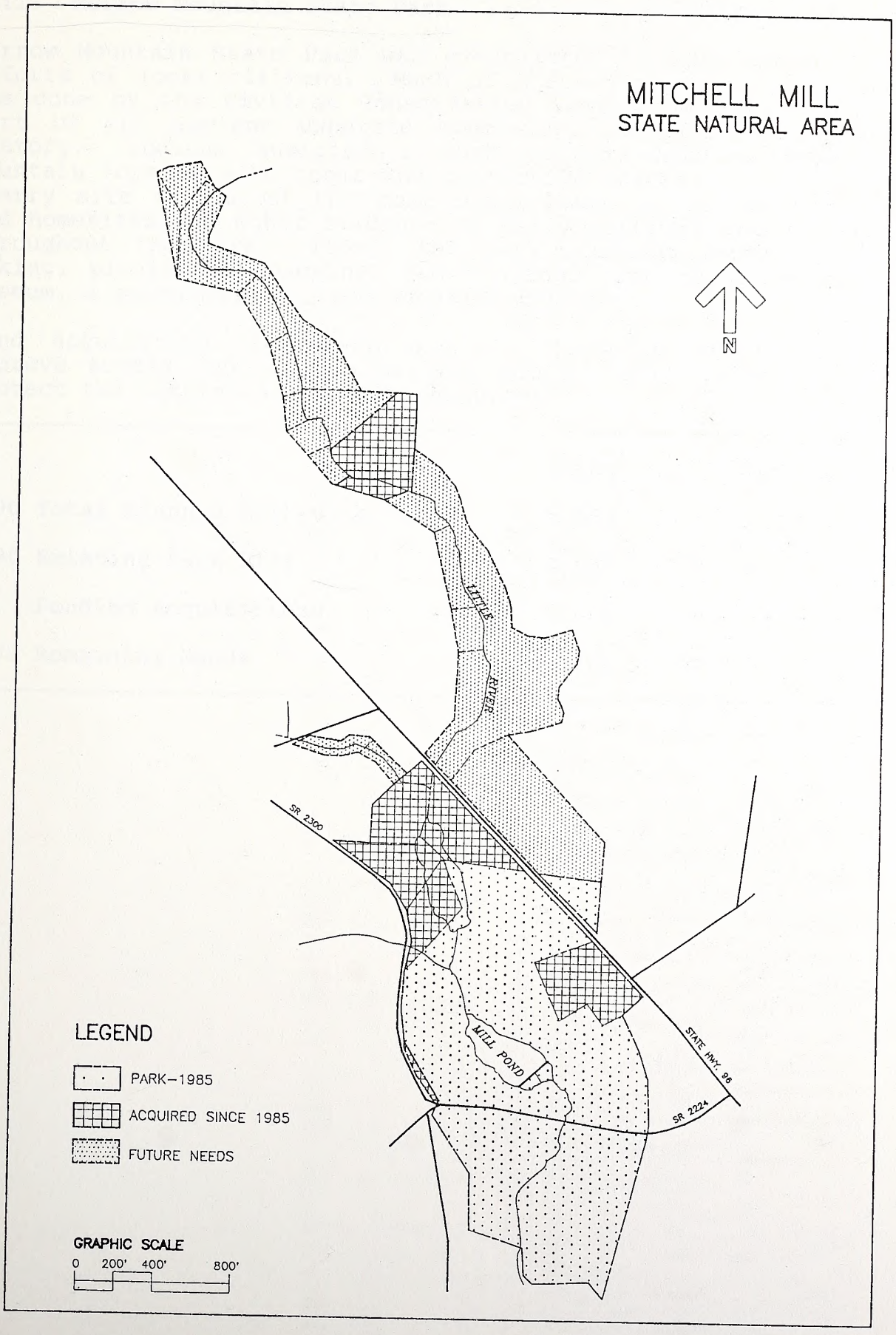

MERCHANTS MILLPOND
STATE PARK
SR 1319
SR 1321
SR 1318
US 158
SR 1403
SR 1400
JASPER SWAMP
MERCHANTS MILLPOND
SR 1407
SR 1405
SR 1408
SR 1404
SR 1411
LEGEND
PARK—1985
ACQUIRED SINCE 1985
PENDING ACQUISITIONS
FUTURE NEEDS
N
GRAPHIC SCALE
0 500' 1000' 2000' 3000'

UNIT: **Mitchells Mill State Natural Area** COUNTY: Wake

Mitchells Mill State Natural Area was established in 1976 by a donation of land. The natural area is located in eastern Wake County and is near the fall line between the Piedmont and the coastal plain. In addition to an old stone dam and millpond on the Little River, the natural area contains some of the most extensive granitic flatrock outcrops in North Carolina. The exposed granite hosts an interesting succession of lichens, mosses, and other specially adapted plant species, many of which are rare.

The land acquisition objective is to complete the protection of this unique cluster of granite outcrops. Acquisition of the granite flatrocks near the millpond were the highest priority, with the granite outcrops and flatrocks upstream the next priority.

	Acres	Cost
1990 Total Planned Park Size	151	
1990 Existing Park Size	93	
Pending Acquisitions	0	
1990 Remaining Needs	58	$ 226,000


MITCHELL MILL
STATE NATURAL AREA
N
LITTLE RIVER
SR 2300
MILL POND
STATE HWY. 86
SR 2224
LEGEND
PARK–1985
ACQUIRED SINCE 1985
FUTURE NEEDS
GRAPHIC SCALE
0 200' 400' 800'

UNIT: Morrow Mountain State Park COUNTY: Stanley

Morrow Mountain State Park was established in 1935 through the efforts of local citizens. Much of the early work at the park was done by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Morrow Mountain, part of the ancient Uwharrie Mountains, is rich in cultural history. Indians quarried a rock called rhyolite from the mountain tops to make tools and projectile points. This massive quarry site is one of the most significant on the east coast. Old homesites and other evidence of early settlers are scattered throughout the park. Today, the park provides facilities for hiking, picnicking, camping, and boating. The park also has a museum, a swimming pool, and vacation cabins.

Land acquisition objectives are to eliminate inholdings, to improve access control, to provide public trail access, and to protect the natural and scenic resources.

	Acres	Cost
1990 Total Planned Park Size	5,457	
1990 Existing Park Size	4,693	
Pending Acquisitions	0	
1990 Remaining Needs	764	$ 972,000

MORROW MOUNTAIN
STATE PARK

LEGEND

PARK–1985

FUTURE NEEDS

N

GRAPHIC SCALE

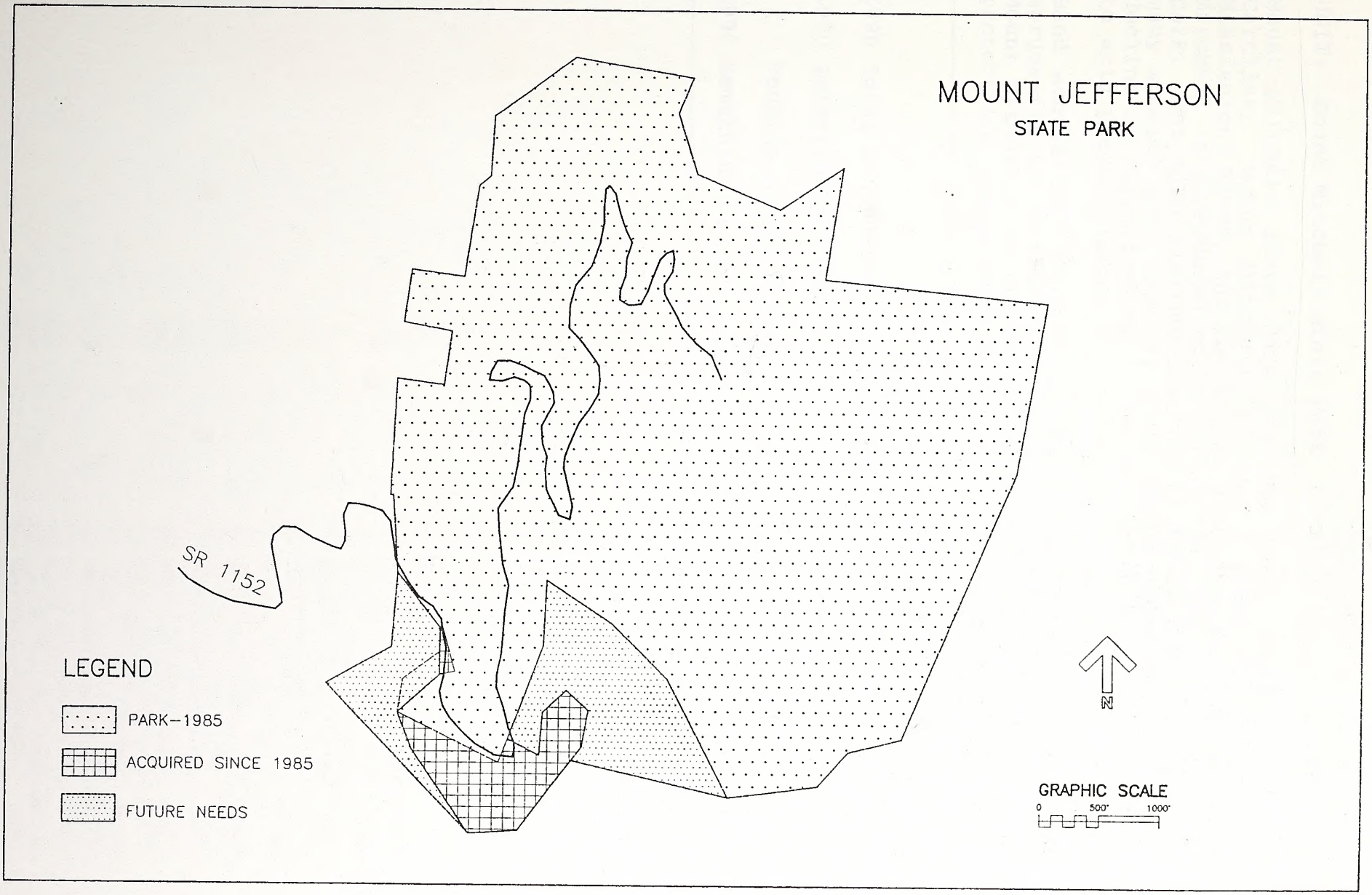
0 1000' 2000' 4000'

UNIT: **Mount Jefferson State Park** COUNTY: Ashe

Mount Jefferson became a state park in 1956, with most of the property being donated. The top of Mount Jefferson is a National Natural Landmark in recognition of its magnificent oak-hickory forests, some of which have never been logged. The understory of rhododendron, mountain laurel, flame azalea, and dogwood, together with a profusion of ferns and wildflowers, add to the special beauty and botanical significance of this park. Visitors can picnic, hike, and enjoy the panoramic views from the summit of the mountain.

The land acquisition objectives are to protect the park entrance and to eliminate access control problems.

	Acres	Cost
1990 Total Planned Park Size	547	
1990 Existing Park Size	489	
Pending Acquisitions	0	
1990 Remaining Needs	58	$ 357,000


MOUNT JEFFERSON
STATE PARK
SR 1152
LEGEND
PARK–1985
ACQUIRED SINCE 1985
FUTURE NEEDS
N
GRAPHIC SCALE
0
500'
1000'

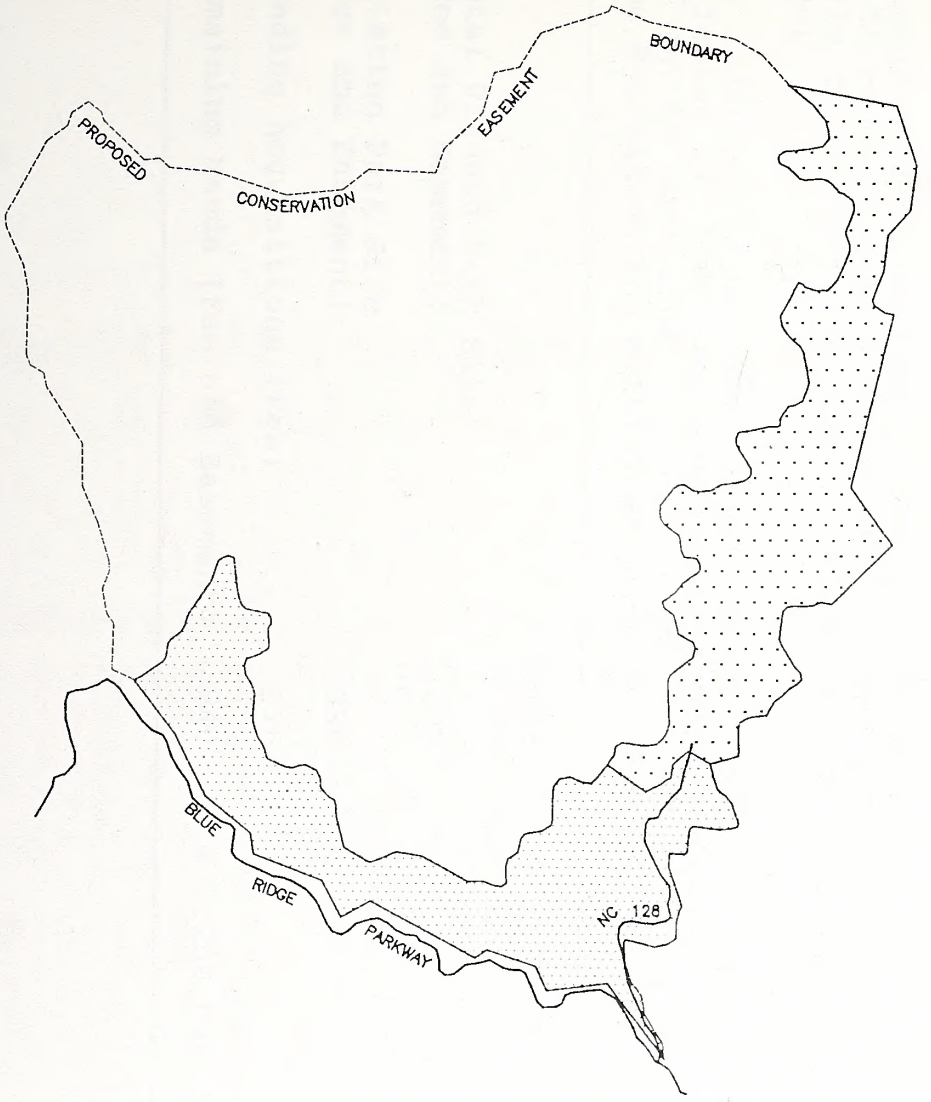
UNIT: Mount Mitchell State Park COUNTY: Yancey

Mount Mitchell State Park was the first state park in North Carolina. Mount Mitchell is the highest peak east of the Mississippi River, and the spectacular view from the top of Mount Mitchell is considered to be one of the primary resources of the park. The high altitude spruce-fir forests in the park contain many species more commonly found much farther north. The recent decline of these forests is thought to be due, at least in part, to acid precipitation.

Land acquisition objectives are to complete protection of the spruce-fir forests in the J-shaped mountain range which includes Mount Mitchell; to improve control of access to the park; and to protect the scenic view from the top of the mountain.

	Acres	Cost
1990 Total Planned Park Size	2,877	
1990 Existing Park Size	1,677	
Pending Acquisitions	0	
1990 Remaining Needs	1,200	$ 960,000

MOUNT MITCHELL
STATE PARK



N

LEGEND

PARK–1985

FUTURE NEEDS

GRAPHIC SCALE

0 1000' 2000'

UNIT: **New River State River and State Park** COUNTY: Ashe & Alleghany

The New River is the oldest river in North America. New River State River was established in 1976 when the South Fork of the New River from the confluence of Dog Creek to the Virginia state line was designated a National and State Scenic River in recognition of its outstanding scenic values.

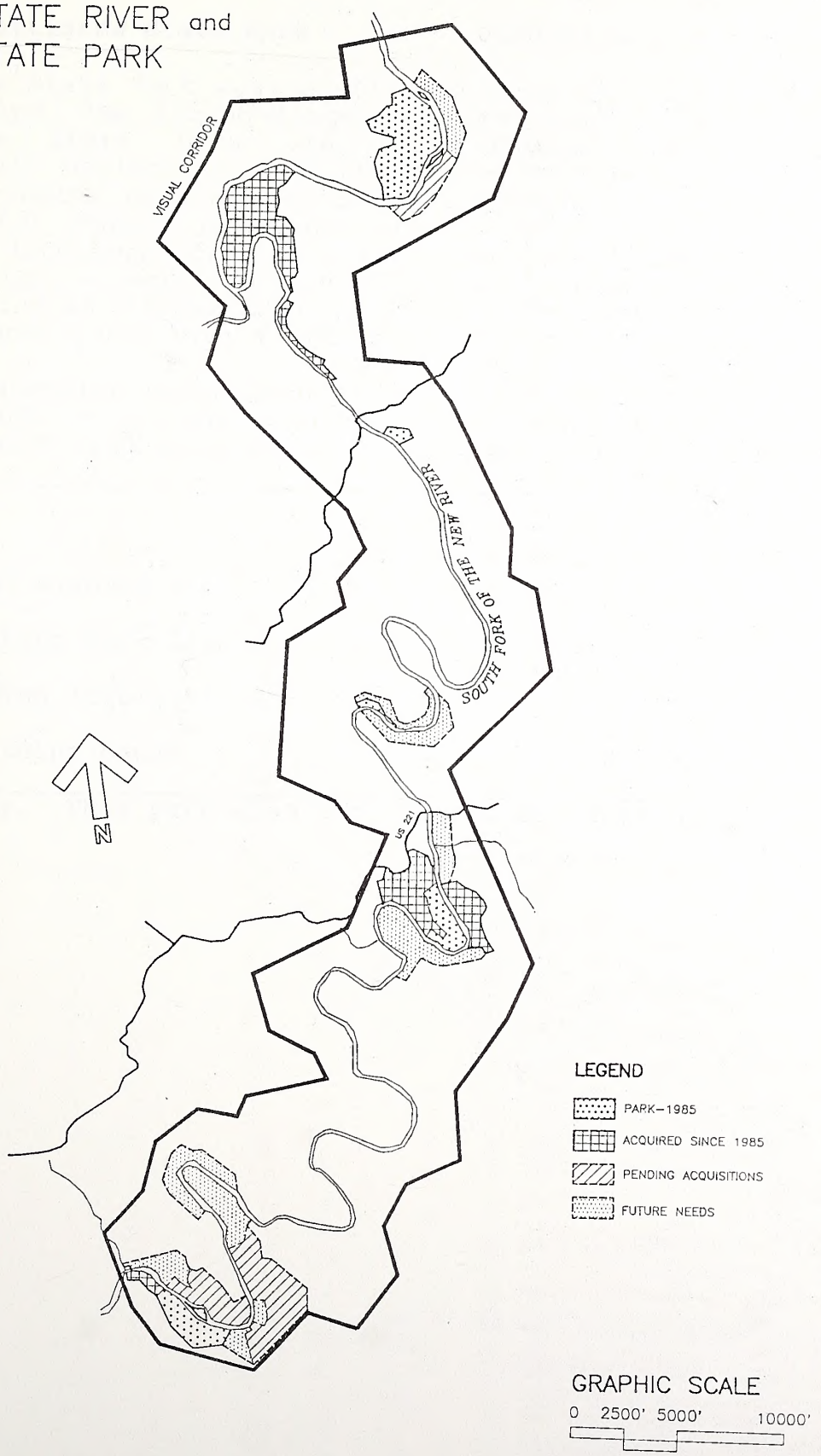
Legislation designating the river as a Scenic River limits to 2,200 acres the amount of land that can be acquired by the state, either in fee simple or as conservation easements. The park's master plan called for scenic easements along most of the Scenic River's 26.5 miles. It later became clear that 2,200 acres spread out over that distance would be ineffective in protecting the river's scenic qualities. A new plan called for clustering the 2,200 acres to protect the scenic integrity of the areas around the public access sites.

Land acquisition objectives are to provide public access to the river, to enhance recreational opportunities along the river, and partially to protect the visual resources and water quality of the river.

Funding allocated to New River State Park in the 1985 appropriation has been supplemented by funding targeted to State Rivers, by an additional appropriation in 1989, and by grants from the Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Fund.

	Acres	Cost
1990 Total Planned Park Size (Fee and Easement)	2,200	
1990 Existing Park Size (Fee and Easement)	1,090	
Pending Acquisitions (Fee)	170	
1990 Remaining Needs (Fee and Easement)	940	$ 3,200,000

NEW RIVER
STATE RIVER and STATE PARK



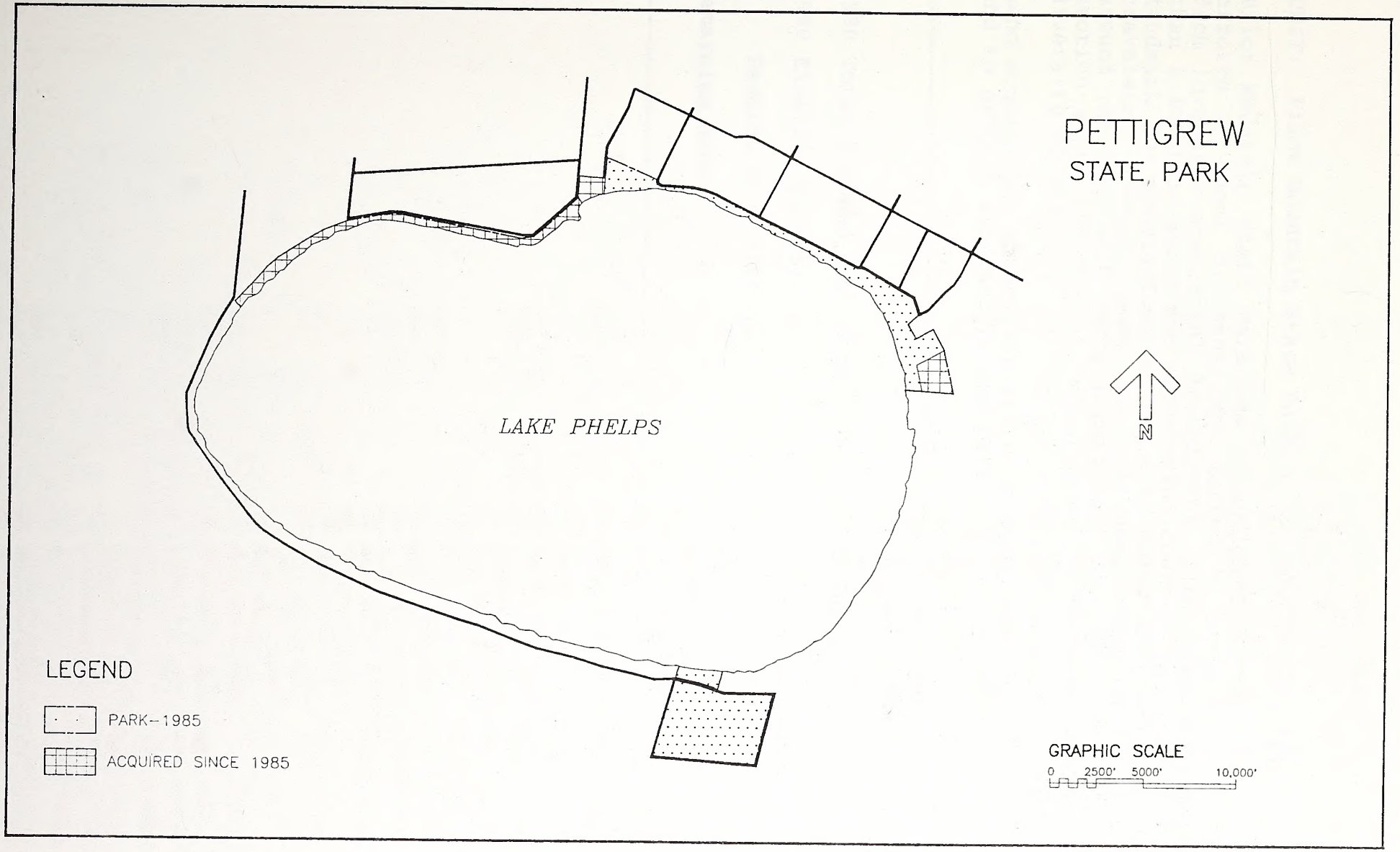
UNIT: Pettigrew State Park COUNTY: Washington & Tyrrell

Pettigrew State Park was established in 1939. The park includes Lake Phelps, the second largest natural lake in North Carolina. Pettigrew State Park and Lake Phelps contain important geological, biological, and cultural resources. The clear water of Lake Phelps offers excellent fishing and provides wintering habitat for swans, geese and ducks. Remnant forests along the northern lakeshore contain trees of huge proportions, and a tract on the lake's south shore contains a high quality pocosin. Ancient Indian canoes discovered in the lake are some of the longest and oldest ever found in the South.

Land acquisition objectives at Pettigrew were to improve access control and to provide land for development of park facilities. All proposed land acquisition at Pettigrew has been completed.

	Acres*	Cost
1990 Total Planned Park Size	1,143	
1990 Existing Park Size	1,143	
Pending Acquisitions	0	
1990 Remaining Needs	0	

*Land only. This park also includes 16,600 acre Lake Phelps.


PETTIGREW
STATE PARK
LAKE PHELPS
N
LEGEND
PARK--1985
ACQUIRED SINCE 1985
GRAPHIC SCALE
0 2500' 5000' 10,000'

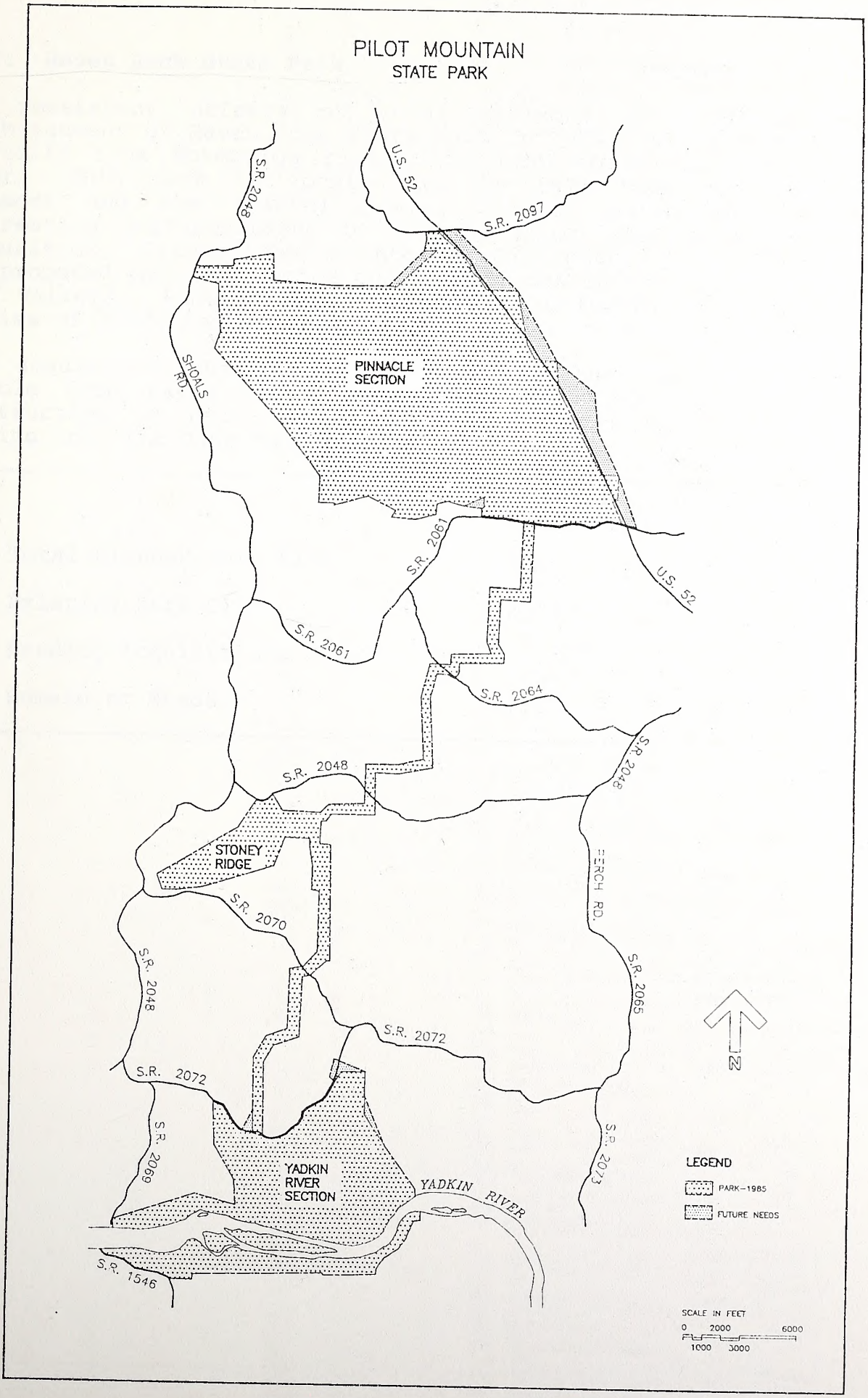
UNIT: **Pilot Mountain State Park** COUNTY: Surry and Yadkin

Pilot Mountain State Park was established in 1968 through the efforts of local citizens, who wanted to protect the mountain from intensive commercial development. The mountain rises more than 1,400 feet above the surrounding countryside, and has been a landmark for generations of Indians, early settlers, and modern travelers. Ravens, hawks, and vultures soar on the updrafts around the prominent rocky pinnacles. The park also includes a section along the scenic Yadkin River, providing habitat for a diversity of wildlife, including several rare salamanders.

Land acquisition objectives are to provide essential buffer zones and to protect accesses to the park.

	Acres	Cost
1990 Total Planned Park Size	3,901	
1990 Existing Park Size	3,703	
Pending Acquisitions	0	
Remaining Needs	198	$ 990,000

PILOT MOUNTAIN
STATE PARK



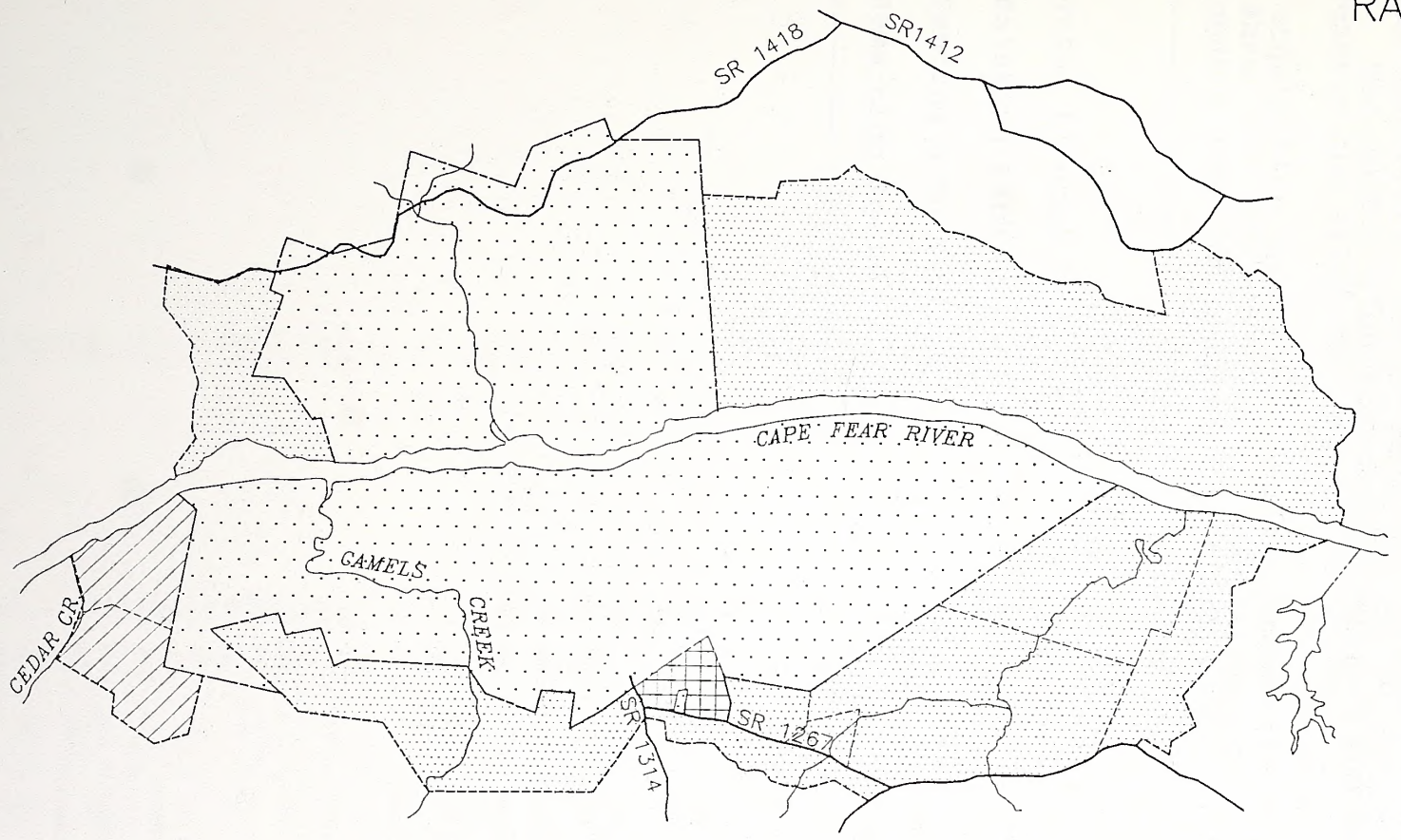
UNIT: Raven Rock State Park COUNTY: Harnett

The persistent efforts of local citizens resulted in the establishment of Raven Rock State Park in 1970. Raven Rock is a quartzite rock formation rising 152 feet above the Cape Fear River. This park is located on the fall line between the Piedmont and the coastal plain regions, which results in interesting juxtapositions of coastal plain and montane plant communities. Creeks flowing into the Cape Fear River within the the proposed park boundaries cut deeply, making narrow ridges and deep valleys. Rich forests, abundant wildflowers, and numerous species of birds and other wildlife fill the park.

Land acquisition objectives are to protect the scenic resources visible from Raven Rock, to provide the land necessary for construction of park facilities, and to protect the streams flowing into the Cape Fear River.

	Acres	Cost
1990 Total Planned Park Size	5,532	
1990 Existing Park Size	2,847	
Pending Acquisitions	149	
1990 Remaining Needs	2,536	$ 5,000,000

RAVEN ROCK
STATE PARK



LEGEND

- PARK–1985
- ACQUIRED SINCE 1985
- PENDING ACQUISITIONS
- FUTURE NEEDS

GRAPHIC SCALE

0 500' 1500' 3000'

UNIT: South Mountains State Park COUNTY: Burke

South Mountains State Park was established in 1974 to preserve a portion of the rugged and beautiful South Mountains Range. This mountainous park contains extensive forests, rocky outcrops, and clear sparkling streams. Jacob's Fork, a trout stream with an 80-foot waterfall, is classified as an Outstanding Resource Water. The master plan for development of the park is intended to preserve the wilderness character which visitors enjoy.

Land acquisition objectives are to completely protect the upper watershed of Jacob's Fork, and to provide flatter, more developable land for construction of park facilities.

	Acres	Cost
1990 Total Planned Park Size	8,394	
1990 Existing Park Size	7,226	
Pending Acquisitions	158	
1990 Remaining Needs	1,010	$ 1,700,000

SOUTH MOUNTAINS
STATE PARK

LEGEND

- PARK–1985
- ACQUIRED SINCE 1985
- PENDING ACQUISITIONS
- FUTURE NEEDS

GRAPHIC SCALE

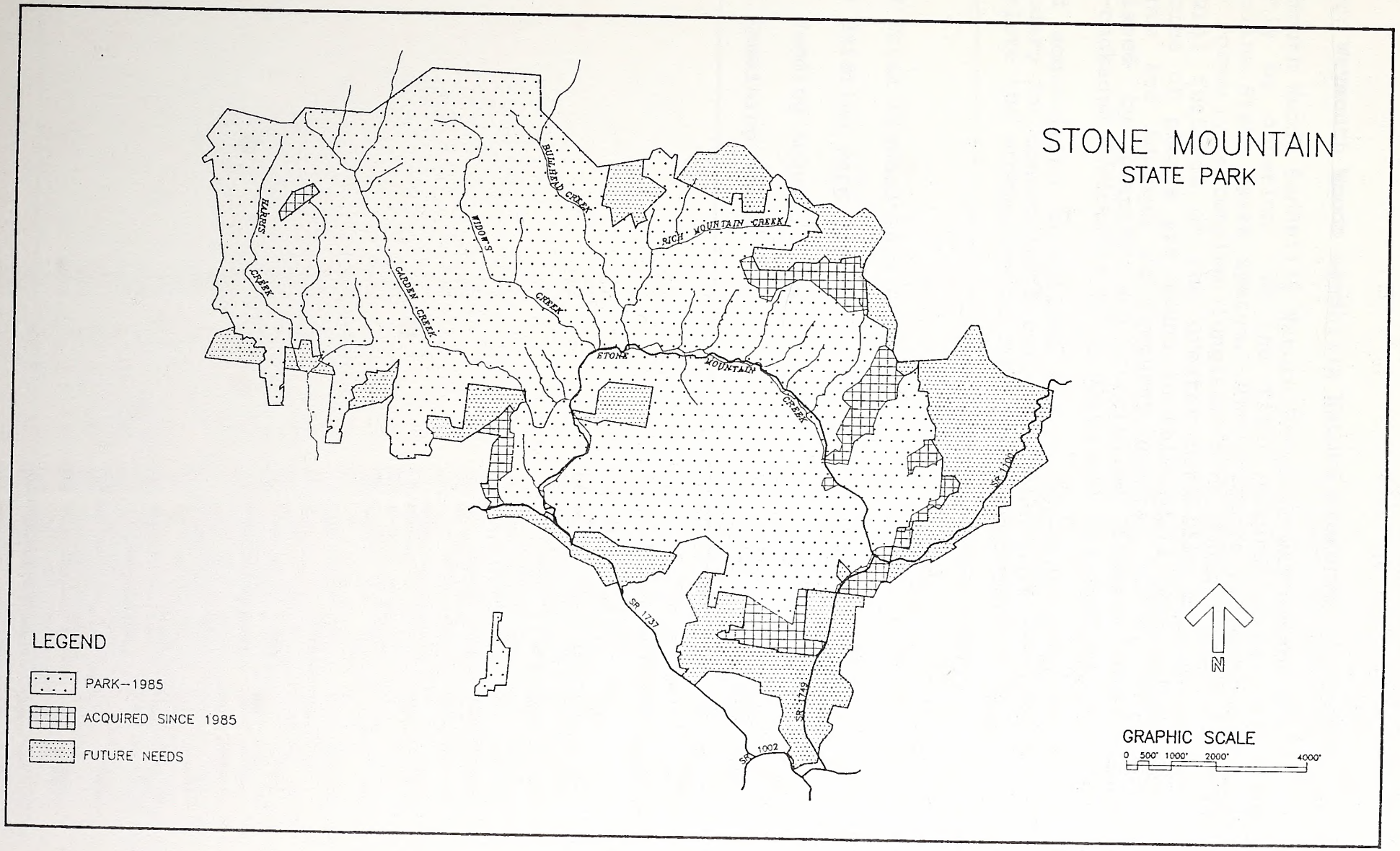
0 3000' 6000'

UNIT: **Stone Mountain State Park** COUNTY: Alleghany & Wilkes

Stone Mountain State Park was established in 1969 with a combination of land purchases and donations. The huge dome of granite for which the park is named was formed from molten rock several miles deep in the earth. Erosion of the overlying layers caused the rock mass to expand upward. The geological significance of Stone Mountain is recognized by its designation as a National Natural Landmark. The park includes a portion of the Blue Ridge escarpment which within the park rises from the East Prong of the Roaring River some 2,500 feet to Bullhead Mountain over a distance of only three and half miles. The streams of the escarpment have high quality water and most are designated trout waters. The protection of the water quality within the park is critical.

Land acquisition objectives at this park are to protect the watershed of the clear, high quality trout streams; to protect the spectacular scenic view from the mountain; and, to eliminate inholdings. One of the inholdings is a mineral reservation on the granite at the heart of the park.

	Acres	Cost
1990 Total Planned Park Size	16,832	
1990 Existing Park Size	13,437	
Pending Acquisitions	5	
1990 Remaining Needs	3,390	$ 10,778,000


STONE MOUNTAIN
STATE PARK
BULLHEAD CREEK
RICH MOUNTAIN CREEK
HARRIS CREEK
WIDOW'S CREEK
GARDEN CREEK
STONE MOUNTAIN CREEK
SR 1737
SR 1749
SR 1002
SR 1100
LEGEND
PARK—1985
ACQUIRED SINCE 1985
FUTURE NEEDS
N
GRAPHIC SCALE
0 500' 1000' 2000' 4000'

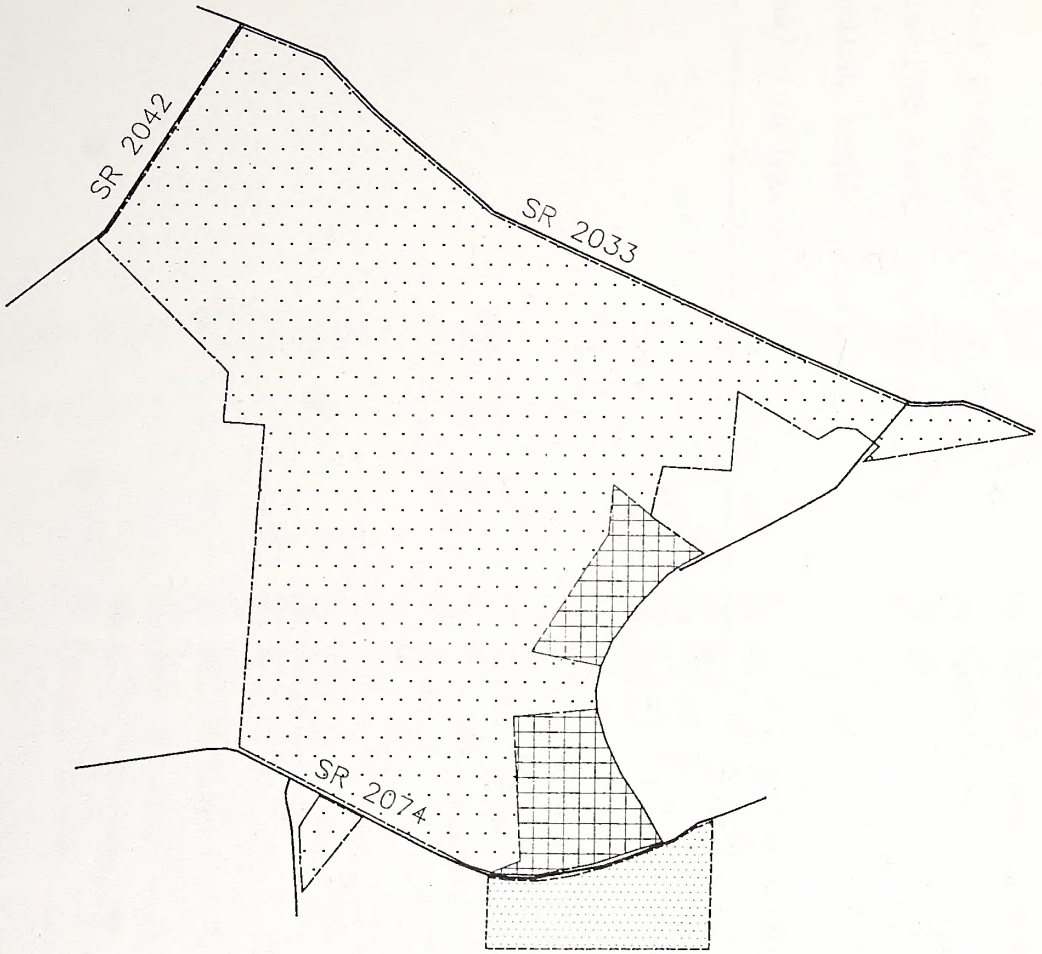
UNIT: **Weymouth Woods Sandhills Nature Preserve** COUNTY: Moore

Weymouth Woods Sandhills Nature Preserve was established in 1963, mostly by donation, as the first natural area in the North Carolina State Parks System. The preserve protects a portion of the formerly extensive longleaf pine forest and other unique natural features of the Greater Sandhills Region. Nearly 500 species of plants are found in this small park. Many of these plants are adapted to frequent natural fires, which are now replaced by planned and controlled fires. The endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker is an important resident of this park.

Land acquisition objectives are to provide a more manageable boundary for controlled burning and other park operations, and to complete the protection of sensitive resources.

	Acres	Cost
1990 Total Planned Park Size	710	
1990 Existing Park Size	676	
Pending Acquisitions	0	
1990 Remaining Needs	34	$ 510,000

WEYMOUTH WOODS
SANDHILLS NATURE PRESERVE



N

LEGEND

- PARK–1985
- ACQUIRED SINCE 1985
- FUTURE NEEDS

GRAPHIC SCALE

0 500' 1000' 2000'

SWAMP HILL FARM
MELVIN WOOD

UNIT: **William B. Umstead State Park** COUNTY: Wake

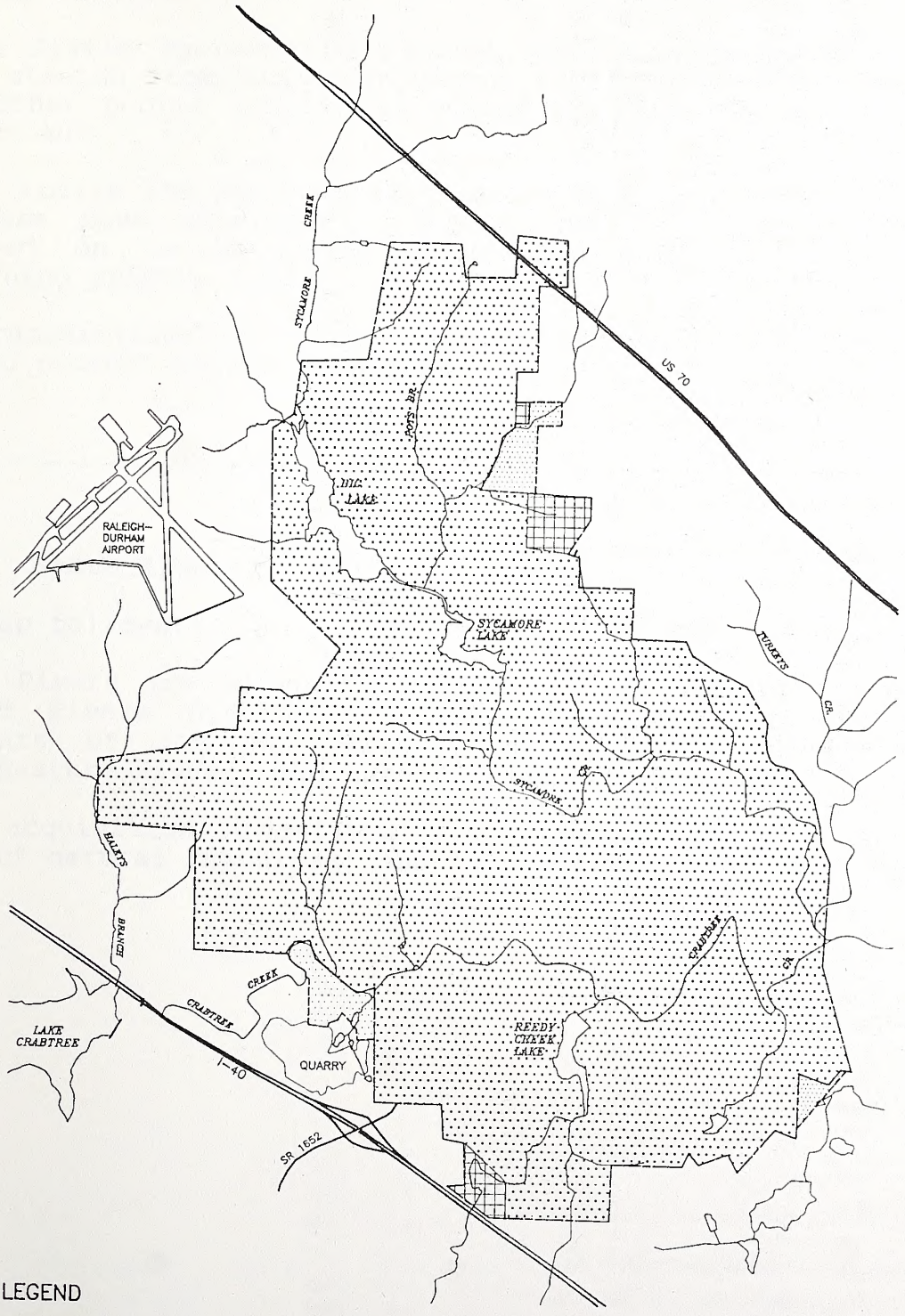
William B. Umstead State Park was established in the 1930's as a federal recreation demonstration project. The park's upland and floodplain forests, its spring wildflowers and diverse wildlife, its creeks and recreational lakes, are increasing in value as the area around the park rapidly urbanizes. Umstead Park is a favorite of Triangle residents, who appreciate the large expanse of green space so close to their homes. The park also helps to protect the watershed of Crabtree Creek.

Land acquisition objectives are to protect the park along I-40 and US 70, to protect the watershed of small creeks within the park, and to provide adequate buffers between park facilities and adjacent development.

	Acres	Cost
1990 Total Planned Park Size	5,530	
1990 Existing Park Size	5,337	
Pending Acquisitions	0	
1990 Remaining Needs	193	$ 4,700,000

WILLIAM B. UMSTEAD

STATE PARK



UNIT: **State Trails**

(No map follows.)

State Trails include the planned Mountains-to-Sea Trail, which will stretch from the Great Smokey Mountains to the Outer Banks, and other public trails designated pursuant to the N.C. Trails System Act.

Exact routes for the Mountains-to-Sea Trail and other trails have not yet been determined. Early trail planning efforts have focused on using public lands and providing links across adjoining private land.

Land acquisition objectives are to provide public trail access and to protect scenic resources.

UNIT: **State Rivers**

(No map follows.)

State Rivers are designated components of the State Natural and Scenic Rivers System. In 1985, designated rivers included segments of the New River, the Linville River, and the Horsepasture River. The Lumber River was designated in 1989.

Land acquisition objectives are to provide public access, to protect natural resources, and to preserve scenic values.

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SMEAD—HASTINGS, MN
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